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Arab-Israeli Talks

Sha'th, Sarid: Jerusalem Left for Final Status Talks

TA2806084394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 28 Jun 94

[Text] Nabil Sha'th says that although the Palestinians have always emphasized their conviction that Jerusalem is the capital of the Palestinian state, the Jerusalem issue will be discussed only at the permanent status negotiations. In this, he was reacting to the Fatah-Tunis announcement that its autonomy elections campaign will focus on the struggle to preserve East Jerusalem's Arab character.

Minister Yosi Sarid noted that Jerusalem is not included in the autonomy and, as agreed, the discussions on its status will be conducted only during the permanent status talks.

Minister Sarid, Major General Dani Rothschild, and Nabil Sha'th met this morning at the joint command near the Erez checkpoint. Our correspondent Moti Amir adds that Minister Nabil Sha'th is now in a meeting with Maj. Gen. Dani Rothschild. The meeting marks the start of the negotiations on the second stage of the autonomy agreements.

As for Yasir 'Arafat's visit to the self-rule territory, Nabil Sha'th said the visit will take place after the Palestinian Authority imposes its control on all spheres of life. Minister Sarid added that the date of the visit will apparently be coordinated at the Rabin-Peres-'Arafat meeting in Paris.

Israel, Jordan Said To Agree on 3 Border Crossings

TA2806103094 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 28 Jun 94 p 1

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Text] Jordan and Israel have agreed to open three joint border crossings: one between Elat and al-'Aqabah; one in the 'Arava, linking southern Jordan and Beersheba; and one in the Bet She'an area, linking Irbid and Tiberias.

Foreign diplomatic sources in Israel told our correspondent that an agreement in principle was reached in a recent meeting King Husayn held with Prime Minister Rabin and Foreign Minister Peres in Elat.

Jordan expressed its wish to set up direct links with Israel without the Palestinians, and the opening of these border crossings is an expression of that policy. Israeli sources said agreement has so far been reached only on the opening of the crossing between Elat and al-'Aqabah, and that while the other crossings are on the agenda, they have still not come up in actual talks.

Inter-Arab Affairs

League's UN Delegate on Efforts To End Yemeni War

NC2806064794 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 28 Jun 94

[Telephone interview with Ambassador Mahmud Abu-al-Nasr, the Arab League's delegate at the United Nations, in New York, by Ashraf 'Abd-al-'Aziz, in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] ['Abd-al-'Aziz] In front of me is a statement by Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid saying that the League has exhausted its efforts to resolve the Yemeni crisis and end the current fighting between the Yemeni people. He also said the Yemeni crisis has been internationalized by the Security Council's intervention. Should we consider this to be a real failure by the Arab League to intervene in the crisis?

[Abu-al-Nasr] I do not want to say the situation is a failure or success, because the efforts are continuing. The Arab League and the United Nations have tried. This does not mean the two organizations have failed to achieve a cease-fire or that the door has been closed to future attempts by the Arab league or the United Nations. These efforts are continuing and cooperation with the Arab League is also continuing. There are constant consultations between the UN and Arab League secretaries general to reach a solution. I do not want to get into the issue of internationalizing the problem because what concerns us now is stopping this tragedy and the Yemeni people's suffering.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Should we expect a new intervention by the Arab League?

[Abu-al-Nasr] If the two parties agree. The issue is now being raised at the Security Council and undoubtedly the Arab League will cooperate with the Council to urge the parties to comply with the resolutions passed in this regard. [passage omitted]

Damascus Declaration States To Meet 5-6 Jul

LD2706145794 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1426 GMT 27 Jun 94

[Excerpt] Kuwait City, 27 Jun (KUNA)—Gulf diplomatic sources informed KUNA today that the ordinary meeting of the Damascus Declaration states will convene in Kuwait 5-6 July.

The sources stated that the meeting, which was due to take place today, was postponed while awaiting the outcome of the ongoing political efforts to contain the Yemeni crisis, and the latest developments in the region. [passage omitted]

Islamic Affairs

ICO Holds Talks With Afghan Leaders in Islamabad

LD2706220994 Riyadh SPA in English 2019 GMT 27 Jun 94

[Text] Jeddah, June 27, SPA—The delegation of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) [ICO] started intensive talks with the representatives of the Afghan leaders in Islamabad on the on-going crisis in the country and the escalated situation and the difficult position being faced by the government which was formed on bases of the Afghan consensus following the Islamabad and Makkah accords and subsequent agreements.

A statement issued by the OIC said the delegation has started talks with the Afghan political leaders and representatives of the Government of Pakistan including Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, the foreign minister.

The statement said the secretary general of the OIC is planning to visit the region early next month to meet with the leaders of various factions and try to find an agreement for ceasefire and refreshment of Afghan political, economic and social structures.

The secretary general sent separate messages to various factions, calling on them to back the efforts being made by the OIC to establish peace and stability in Afghanistan.

Palestinian Affairs

Hamas Threatens To Step Up 'Jihad'

PM2806091294 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 27 Jun 94 p 5

[Unattributed report: "Hamas Threatens To Step Up Its Military Operations"]

[Text] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Hamas has said that the "Palestinian agents' voice was silent throughout the occupation period in the Gaza Strip and should not rise now under Palestinian self-administration."

Engineer Ibrahim Ghawshah, official spokesman for Hamas, added in a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the movement is very keen "not to cause the agents issue to explode conditions in the self-rule areas. Thus the Palestinian Authority must arrest those who murdered a Hamas member as soon as possible, bring them to trial, and publish the files for the Palestinian people." Ghawshah was commenting on the incident in which Zahir Salluhah, an element from the military wing of the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam Battalions in Gaza, was killed. He described it as "a serious incident, and Hamas puts the entire responsibility on the Palestinian Authority's shoulder."

He added that "any laxity in pursuing the murderers will mean that Hamas has to return to defending itself." He pointed out that "it has been proved to anyone who cast doubt on Hamas' strength that the huge mass funeral in the Strip last Friday, which Palestinian police commanders had to join, proves that Hamas is very popular among Palestinians."

Ghawshah pointed out that "Hamas' strength elements are used against the Zionist occupation, not against the Palestinian people, to which Hamas belongs."

Ghawshah revealed the reasons for the decline in armed operations against the occupation forces last month. He said that "Hamas' jihad and resistance plans have decreased since the Palestinian Authority assumed its duties—which is expected, the aim being to reengage the occupation [forces] through jihad and resistance, taking account of the changes that have taken place on the ground."

The official spokesman promised to "step up the jihad and armed operations against occupation forces in a manner that will certainly dash the Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's hopes."

Jihad Leader on Future Plans, Ties With Fatah

NC2706202594 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 22 Jun 94 p 11

[Interview with Fathi al-Shiqaqi, identified as a "co-founder" of the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine, by Hanadi Salman in al-Yarmuk Camp in Damascus; date not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Salman] It seems the movement is heading toward establishing a political movement. Is this so?

[Al-Shiqaqi] There is much talk about this, but we have not yet reached a point that permits us to announce a political front or a political party inside Palestine by tomorrow. However, this is how things look. We do not want any sort of collision with the new Palestinian Authority. Since we do not want collision and since armed collision is wrong, then what we are required to do is to intensify our political, social, and cultural activity in the self- rule areas, but of course not at the expense of our jihad. This leads us to think of establishing an Islamic-national-popular bloc that could act as a political opposition to the settlement and to the Zionist trends that currently exist within the self-government authority without colliding with them. Debates are now underway within the movement to find a mechanism for this. Discussions are also under way with our friends in Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] on the nature and type of this framework, etc... However, some obstacles and many unanswered questions still remain before us.

[Salman] So you are talking about a framework that is not confined to the "Islamic Jihad" only?

[Al-Shiqaqi] Such a framework, if established, would not act as a substitute for the Jihad Movement. The Islamic Jihad Movement will continue to exist and operate covertly inside the occupied territories. It will play the same role it is playing now. On the other hand, if such a framework is established it will not be a party exclusive to the Islamic Jihad. We will try to make it a party or a framework grouping all the oppositionists. We could fail, but at least we always try to make it broader than the Islamic Jihad and to involve other popular figures.

[Salman] What is the response of the other quarters you are contacting? Are they positive?

[Al-Shiqaqi] In principle, yes. But questions and complications always come up. The reality we live in inside Palestine is still difficult. Questions arise about the nature of the self-rule authority, how it will assume its role, and how it will deal with the opposition and with the enemy. All these questions are put forward making us unable to come to a final or decisive picture of the framework of which we are thinking.

[Salman] You said that the Jihad Movement will continue to play the same role it is playing now. Does this apply to the entire West Bank and Gaza or are Gaza and Jericho excluded?

[Al-Shiqaqi] Our work will continue in all Palestine. The self-rule area makes up 2 percent or less of the total area of Palestine; that is, there is 98 percent of Palestine that will be open for jihad against the enemy as the case was before, and we hope it will grow. Within the self-rule area, our decision is that the occupation still exists; in fact its military presence has intensified. Thus, so long as the occupation remains, we believe that it is our right to confront this occupation by force. The military operations we have carried out following the redeployment [of Israeli troops] or following the entry of the [Palestinian] police sought to prove to the world and to our people that the occupation still exists. The operations were carried out in the northern, southern, and central parts of Gaza. We clashed with soldiers wherever we found them. Thus, the Israeli withdrawal is a trick and is not real. So even in these areas we will continue until we see a real withdrawal. Once we see a real withdrawal from the self-rule areas we will stop. But if the occupation remains, we will continue our jihad.

[Salman] How can a confrontation with the Palestinian Authority be avoided?

[Al-Shiqaqi] We always appeal to the Palestinian police and the new Authority to examine our objectives and pay heed to the fact that we really give priority to the avoidance of any clash with them. Nevertheless, we cannot allow [Israeli] soldiers to remain around us while we sit back and watch them. In all our statements, we address the Palestinian police on this issue, saying that we cannot halt our jihad as long as we see one Israeli soldier able to come into the Gaza Strip and pursue our mujahidin. This whole issue remains under discussion but we still give priority to non- confrontation with the police and the Authority.

[Salman] Have the Palestinian police given any signs of their intentions toward the movement?

[Al-Shiqaqi] In the past few weeks, the Palestinian police have arrested more than one brother from the Islamic Jihad Movement. They were subsequently released but their detention came as a surprise to us. We believe it was not a step in the right direction. Still, we have discovered that they want to start a dialogue with the movement inside Palestine. We are not refusing, particularly if the dialogue is conducted inside Palestine with the aim of avoiding any clashes, which can happen at any time. We have also heard that people from other groups have been arrested. We are surprised that the Palestinian Authority, already accused of being a tool of the Zionist enemy, should take steps to prove this charge by detaining mujahidin formerly wanted by the occupation authorities.

Despite our goodwill and willingness to avoid clashes, and even our abstention from sharing authority with them, the situation remains unclear and the Authority's attitude to the opposition remains confused.

[Salman] Have you actually begun a dialogue with the Palestinian Authority or is this still just an idea at this stage?

[Al-Shiqaqi] When the recent arrests took place, some brothers, Islamic Jihad sympathizers, conducted a dialogue with the new Authority to secure the release of the detainees.

[Salman] Was the dialogue limited to this issue?

[Al-Shiqaqi] Naturally the dialogue branched off onto other issues. Just as the brothers made demands, the Authority made demands. These arrests have been partly a form of political blackmail. They held some young men as hostages to make the movement change its policies toward the occupation. We harbor no violent designs against the Palestinian Authority. We have political designs. They want us to alter our policies toward the occupation in return for releasing our brothers. Of course we rejected this logic and insisted on exercising our right to resist the occupation as long as it lasts.

[Salman] Some movements opposed to the agreement have said that they will not alter their policies but will alter their "tactics" in the future. Does this apply to Islamic Jihad also?

[Al-Shiqaqi] This is possible. When we speak in a political context, this signifies an alteration of tactics. It was impossible to speak in a political context when the occupation authorities were still here, or in the areas where the occupation continues. This proves that we can alter our moves.

[Salman] Has anything been decided in this context or is the issue under discussion? Changes on the political front are merely one form of alteration.

[Al-Shiqaqi] The movement is still debating the question of military action against occupation troops in the autonomy areas. Our decision at this moment remains to confront the occupation forces.

[Salman] Some opponents of the Islamic Jihad Movement say that the movement's only chance of survival is to adhere to its opposition of the Declaration of Principles since it does not possess the popularity or the seniority of the other Palestinian movements, which someday could be prepared to join the National Authority. What do you say?

[Al-Shiqaqi] First: The Islamic Jihad Movement is well established in Palestine. Everybody knows that it and Hamas are the two most prominent opposition movements inside Palestine. It is present in every city and village in Palestine. True, its presence is less than that of Hamas, but its history is very recent and financial resources are very limited. So any comparison between us and Hamas would no doubt show that our presence in Palestine is less than Hamas'. We have very limited resources compared to the other Palestinian organizations, but we have managed to maintain a relatively active presence. Second: We are not the only opponents of the Declaration of Principles. There are 10 or more factions opposed to the Declaration of Principles. Even the Communist Party, which is now called the People's Party, has issued a statement opposing the Cairo Agreement. This means that the People's Party has agreed to the Oslo Agreement but rejected the Cairo Agreement. The only movement that supports the Declaration of Principles is Fatah; that is, part, but not all, of Yasir 'Arafat's group. So if we are talking about opposition, we are not the first or last oppositionists. The opposition is comprehensive and wide. But if we are talking about military action, this is another story.

[Salman] But with the signs indicating that some other movements are prepared to join the National Authority, is your refusal to join this Authority what makes you stand out?

[Al-Shiqaqi] The opposition movements inside Palestine, be they Hamas or other national forces, still refuse to join the authority. For us, it seems that not everybody is convinced of participating in the authority and when we say so we mean it. This stems from the nature of the ideology and ideas we believe in and from the nature of our stand vis-a-vis the Zionist enemy and the new authority. Throughout our history, our friends, allies, and even adversaries know that we do not deceive or double-talk and that when we say something we mean it. Thus, the question of non-participation is not due to the insignificance of the movement as much as it is the result of a firm conviction held by every individual within the movement.

[Salman] How do you assess the Jihad Movement's relations with Hamas?

[Al-Shiqaqi] Our relations with Hamas are excellent. Hamas is an extension of the Muslim Brotherhood and represents the shift within the intifadah. Before the intifadah, we used to differ over some theoretical and practical matters inside Palestine, particularly the need for immediate jihad. This issue was a source of disagreement between us. But with the outbreak of the intifadah, the gap narrowed and the sensitivities diminished. This was accompanied by several official meetings from the two sides over the past five years. We met inside Palestine and abroad and held lengthy discussions in an attempt to find as much common ground as possible and coordinate between us. At the theoretical and political levels, our relations are very good, but there is still a distance we have to travel toward establishing things on the ground, such as the formation of a stronger front or stronger institutions. We have not yet succeeded in this matter, but in the theoretical and political domains, there has been great understanding and coordination in the past years. There is a tendency toward establishing more coordination with Hamas. Meetings have been held recently toward that end.

[Salman] Were the meetings held inside and abroad?

[Al-Shiqaqi] Yes.

[Salman] What about Al-Jihad's relations with the Fatah movement?

[Al-Shiqaqi] Our relations with Yasir 'Arafat have never been positive. There are no personal sensitivities between us. We have never met in a battle or at a dinner table. Relations have not been positive because of the political line followed by 'Arafat during the past years, his constant plotting against the Islamic al-Jihad Movement, and his attempts to tempt and disrupt the movement's ranks and create dummy organizations under the "Islamic al-Jihad's" name. Therefore, and to protest this political and scheming line, we have always refused to even meet him despite his persistence and his dispatch of envoys to us.

But this does not prevent us from having ties of friendship with some of Fatah's cadres or youths inside the occupied territories. They were serious in resisting the occupation from outside and inside the prisons. This has also not prevented us from receiving in our offices and houses some Fatah figures whose views differ from 'Arafat's.

[Salman] Al-Jihad Movement says that it refuses to have a dialogue with 'Arafat, while he says that he does not want to have a dialogue with you in the first place?

[Al-Shiqaqi] He has never said that he refuses to have a dialogue with us. He has sent one delegation after the other to this office. (Police commander) Yusuf Nasr was one of those he has sent and Nasr said in an interview

few days ago that he is having a dialogue with the "Islamic al-Jihad" movement.

[Salman] A dialogue through the detainees?

[Al-Shiqaqi] No. The dialogues were held inside [the territories]. Messengers from Yasir 'Arafat came here to this office several times. We told them that we are not opposed to having a dialogue with those whom we respect personally, but we are not willing to start a dialogue with Yasir 'Arafat. This is our stand that they always took back with them despite the many messeges that were sent.

They even contacted us on behalf of Yasir 'Arafat exactly two weeks ago to ask us to initiate a dialogue. They contacted us here and said that 'Arafat wants to open a dialogue with us in order to solve the problems inside. We rejected any form of contacts outside the territories and said that the problems must be solved in the field between those involved in them.

[Salman] Is it true that you were offered seats on the Palestine National Council [PNC]?

[Al-Shiqaqi] Yes, when the 19th or 20th PNC session was held in Algeria. The number of seats was not specified but they said that the PNC is open to us and we could participate. We replied in a letter distributed to all the members. We also issued a statement in which we said that we were not seeking seats but a solid and strong stand, which we would support even if we did not a have a seat in the PNC. National unity is not merely a framework but a solid program.

[Salman] Does this mean that the dialogue with the PLO is severed until Yasir 'Arafat's downfall?

[Al-Shiqaqi] I do not know if there is still a PLO or not. There is today a new self-rule administration. Will there be talks with the self-rule administration or not? As to the PLO, it is difficult for Yasir 'Arafat to say that he is talking on its behalf today. There is nothing called the PLO anymore. There is in fact a new authority that cancels all the past.

[Salman] What about the dialogue with the new authority?

[Al-Shiqaqi] We are pragmatists. Inside Palestine, we will be ready to disengage from any clash with any party, whether it is the new authority or others.

Sha'th Warns Against 'Intolerable' Restrictions

BR2706145494 Rome L'UNITA in Italian 27 Jun 94 p 12

[Interview with Nabil Sha'th by Umberto De Giovannangeli; place and date not given: "The PLO Can Govern, We Are No longer Stone Throwers"—first paragraph is L'UNITA introduction]

[Text] "Now we must demonstrate that we are not just stonethrowers." This is how our interview with Nabil Sha'th began. He is the man who eased relations with Israel, the untiring negotiator of the Gaza and Jericho autonomy, and now the first PLO minister to install himself in the Gaza Strip, with a task about which he himself has strong reservations: laying the foundations upon which to construct "our path toward liberty."

[De Giovannangeli] From Cairo to Gaza: What balance can be drawn, on a human and political level, of this "return home?"

[Sha'th] I could begin by listing the thousands of problems I must deal with each day, the most varied requests I must deal with. But this statement, however true it may be, does not take account of the heart, of the most intimate of sentiments. In fact, no difficulty may overshadow the happiness felt in returning as a free man to Palestine, the land of my ancestors: No exile, even the most "gilded" one, can be worth the land one has always dreamt of living in, the land one has always fought for. Today Gaza is beginning to breathe in an air of liberty, and this is the starting point upon which to reconstruct.

[De Giovannangeli] Is the air of liberty that you refer to also being "breathed" in Jericho?

[Sha'th] The issue is much more complex for the West Bank, and in many ways worrying. We run the risk of living in "provisional liberty" subjected to intolerable controls and restrictions. Jericho cannot become a ghetto, surrounded by the Israeli Army, and isolated from the rest of the West Bank. We will discuss this situation over the coming days with the Israeli negotiators. We must immediately face the 26 issues that have remained unresolved: from delimiting the autonomous region of Jericho to completing the liberation of the Palestinian prisoners, and extending the autonomy to the rest of the occupied territories. Not taking sides could seriously damage the peace process. Due to the Israeli attitude, we are two months behind on the second phase of the negotiations. On the other hand, the date of the Israeli withdrawal from all the Palestinian territories has nothing to do with the successful implementation of the accord on autonomy, but forms an integral part of the accord itself, nine months after the signing. Of course, we cannot wait five years to see if the accord works.

[De Giovannangeli] You refer to "provisional liberty": Is this a critical observation made only with regard to Israel?

[Sha'th] No, unfortunately it is a more general statement that also has to do with the responsibility of the international community. What we have been asking for, especially to the West, ever since the day after the signing of the Washington accords, has been real solidarity. That is, an opportunity to be able to demonstrate to the two million Palestinians living in the territories that peace is not just a signature but a substantial improvement in material living conditions, new employment opportunities, health care, education.

[De Giovannangeli] And instead?

[Sha'th] Instead we found ourselves in front of an amazing series of conditions placed by the West and by international organizations. Not only is the aid that was foreseen taking a long time to materialize, but it is also tied down to requests for guarantees that are unyielding to the point that they disguise a mistrust in our capability and willingness to use this aid for public needs. We are ready for any checks, but we must first be placed in a condition to work.

[De Giovannangeli] What aid are the territories currently most in need of?

[Sha'th] I would definitely say financial aid to make the Palestinian police work at full capacity and to start with the construction of basic infrastructures—roads, the sewage network, health centers—in Gaza and primarily in the refugee camps in the Gaza Strip. It may seem "unpoetical," but at this moment peace for the Palestinians "means" livable homes, street lights, hospitals with equipment, and factories. To put it in one word, a "respectable" life. Because oppression does not just mean an Israeli soldier.

[De Giovannangeli] What is the most demanding challenge facing the Palestinian leadership today?

[Sha'th] Working in a kind of "cultural revolution" mentality. We must transform the PLO from a liberation movement to the embryo of a new class of leaders that are capable of building an independent and really autonomous state and not only of opposing military occupation. This gamble invests each one of us.

[De Giovannangeli] In your opinion how should the fundamental character of the future Palestinian state be?

[Sha'th] It must be a democratic and pluralist state on a political and economic level as well as on a cultural and religious one. In this regard, however, we are not starting from scratch: The history of the Palestinian people, of the PLO itself, has been a history of cohabitation between Muslims and Christians, Marxists and Liberals. We must view the diversities existing within us as a precious common wealth, to be exploited to the utmost, starting with the institutions. I know well that this model of a state is an anomaly in the panorama of the Arab world, and the hostility with which certain regimes have looked at the accords with Israel also arises from an awareness that the Palestinian experience may become an "embarrassing" example for everyone. But this does not worry us, instead it fills us with pride.

[De Giovannangeli] How do you judge the willingness demonstrated by Rabin in welcoming the "pilgrim" 'Arafat in Jerusalem?

[Sha'th] It is undoubtedly a step forward if compared to the absurd events of former weeks. One thing is certain: 'Arafat will go to pray in the al-Aqsa mosque, and this day is near. Let me add that both Rabin and Peres know very well that discussions on the final status of Jerusalem have simply been postponed and that our objective remains that of making the "Holy City" the capital of the two states.

Qaddumi Comments on Future of Gaza-Jericho

NC2606113694 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 15 Jun 94 pp 12, 14

["Exclusive" interview with PLO "Foreign Minister" Faruq Qaddumi by RESALAT correspondent Jamileh Kadivar in Cairo "on the sidelines of the Nonaligned Movement session"; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Kadivar] What is your opinion of the Gaza-Jericho accord and the plan for an autonomous Palestine?

[Qaddumi] I had certain views and recommendations regarding the peace talks that began in Oslo. I presented my views at the Palestinian leadership session. As you are aware I have never attended the talks since the accord in Oslo. As I mentioned before, I had many recommendations and much criticism with regard to this accord.

[Kadivar] Do you believe that the establishment of an autonomous government in Gaza-Jericho will have positive results for the Palestinians? In any case what specifically were your recommendations and criticisms regarding the Oslo talks?

[Qaddumi] First of all, right from the outset, these talks and the accord were not based on the formula of land for peace. We had agreed with our brothers in Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon that we would support a solution based on that formula. However the accord did not pay much attention or lay much stress on this accord. In addition, there are no guarantees in this accord. The United States and Russia should have guaranteed its implementation. They merely contented themselves by participating as witnesses.

In addition, there should have been some debate on the basic issues, and a timeframe should have been discussed for these issues. In the accord, most of the clauses are formulated in a complex manner that demands further discussion so that the implications are clear. The Zionists have used this device to impose an interpretation of the clauses that accords with their own wishes. That is why the talks are not achieving any clear cut results.

[Kadivar] Recently 'Arafat had said that it is possible that peace with Israel may be temporary. He mentioned this in South Africa, and again some days ago. What is your opinion in this regard? Why is 'Arafat repeating this stance?

[Qaddumi] The accord has some bases and principles that will be specified in future talks. When the first and

second accords were signed in Cairo, the Israelis interpreted many of the clauses as they wanted to, and the United States and Russia made no effort to paraphrase and clarify them correctly.

As you know, this accord is for an interim period of two years, but this does not mean that it is free of discrepancies and difficulties.

[Kadivar] I have read the accord very carefully, but I have not been able to comprehend precisely the limits of the powers and obligations of the "Palestinian authority" or "the autonomous government." Could you please explain the extent and manner of these powers? How do you define relations between Israel and Palestine? Do you have any historical examples of such autonomy?

[Qaddumi] No! This has no precedent in history and is a unique and exceptional phenomenon among international accords. It is the responsibility of the Palestinian nation to create new realities in the Palestinian homeland and to be able to interpret the accord in a way that will enable it to attain its national objectives. All of us believe that the Palestinian people will eventually be victorious in this protracted struggle.

[Kadivar] What views do the Palestinian people, the residents of the occupied areas, have regarding the accord?

[Qaddumi] At the outset, the people were in favor of it 100 percent, but today the number of its proponents has decreased. The number decreased to 70 percent and now stands at 30 percent. This is due to Israel's behavior and its delay in withdrawing from Gaza and Jericho. The Israelis do not adhere to their commitments. The withdrawal has been delayed five months. They renege on their words and promises as they wish, as they are the ones who committed usurpation of the Palestinian territories in the first place. The international climate and situation is such that there is still no international pressure on Israel to honor its commitments. [passage omitted]

[Kadivar] Until the accord was signed, there were numerous differences between the two sides, such as the manner of using roads, borders and so on. Have these issues been resolved?

[Qaddumi] There are certain peripheral issues that need to be clarified, but they are not very momentous. As for the highways, the Israelis have control over them and consider them to be necessary for Israel's national security. They wish to impose their own will and determination, even though the highways are part of the national security of the autonomous region, not just part of Israel's national or foreign security.

It is thus clear that Israel is continuing to contemplate aggression and expansion. On the other hand, by raising such issues it wishes to extort the maximum concessions from the Palestinians or at least from the negotiating team.

[Kadivar] What is the status of 'Arafat's cabinet?

[Qaddumi] 'Arafat did offer cabinet positions to some people, but they refused. The Palestinian Government as an institution that can carry out all the administrative duties and foreign relations does not exist in this setup. The accord says that the PLO acts on its behalf in foreign relations. Therefore I am outside the sphere of the administration; since I am only in charge of the embassies, foreign and international relations, I am not part of the administration. The PLO is the actual political and legislative authority in the administration. This means that the PLO Central Committee is the central government and the government is a domestic body having no foreign relations functions.

[Kadivar] When will 'Arafat go to Gaza and Jericho?

[Qaddumi] I think it will be in a few days.

[Kadivar] Can you draw an analogy between the Camp David Accords and the Gaza-Jericho Accord?

[Qaddumi] They are similar in many respects and many of the clauses are similar too.

[Kadivar] What are the differences?

[Qaddumi] There are not many differences except for the fact that the Camp David Accords were signed by the Egyptians and the Gaza-Jericho accord by the Palestinians.

[Kadivar] Then, when the Camp David Accords were signed, why did 'Arafat condemn them and describe them as a form of treachery and slavery? Do you not think that the Camp David Accords brought greater benefits to the Palestinians than the Gaza-Jericho accord?

[Qaddumi] The fact is that both the accords were unfavorable, but as I said earlier, this was the choice of the Palestinians. We merely chose the lesser evil, and that was also because we were forced to. In fact, this accord is a reality imposed by the larger countries; it imposes certain international conditions on us.

After the dismantling of the Soviet Union and the end to the Cold War and due to certain conditions in the Arab and Islamic countries, which are in a relatively weak position, and the fact that one power has imposed its will all over the world—all these are characteristics of our contemporary era—we cannot easily say that we could have gained much more than we have now. [passage omitted]

[Kadivar] In your opinion, how true is it that the accord was signed hastily due to the apprehension on both the Israeli and Palestinian sides about the proliferation of Islamism?

[Qaddumi] I wish to mention something. The opinion of our Iranian friends is of immense importance. You may ask any question you like and repeat the answers verbatim.

[Kadivar] This is exactly what will be done. I am seeking facts about the Palestinian issue and the Gaza-Jericho accord. I remember two years ago at the Nonaligned Movement summit in Jakarta, I strove to speak to 'Arafat about Palestinian issues. Unfortunately, for no particular reason, he avoided speaking to me, despite having promised to talk to me. Therefore I am grateful that you have spared me some of your time.

[Qaddumi] 'Arafat is a religious person who has no fear of Islamist leanings. Throughout the course of his life—I am one of those who has been with him for nearly 40 years—he has not had any close cooperation with the Muslim Brotherhood or with any irreligious movements, but he does not fear Islamist leanings. However, for certain specific reasons, he has differences with them. As for Rabin, why does he fear Islamist leanings?

There is no doubt that the Islamist movement is part of the national and popular movement. I myself am one of those who believe that this popular movement can and has the right to struggle. We are all facing a common enemy. The only differences are in the tactics and mode of tackling them.

The fact is that our people, our cultural and historic legacy is Islamic. Our roots and foundations are Islamic. However, due to the evolving factors and developments in the world there are differences in perceptions of issues. 'Arafat certainly does not fear Islamism. [passage omitted]

It is Rabin who fears Islamist tendencies. He is afraid of Iran, too, since he knows very well that Iran has Islamic thinking and ideology and that Israel is a Zionist and usurper country that has occupied "the holy land." He knows that the Iranian policy and strategy is opposed to Israel, and we have supported the Islamic Revolution right from its outset. In Paris, I met imam Khomeyni and we had contacts with many Islamic combatants prior to the victory of the Islamic Revolution. 'Arafat is truly Islamist in his thinking and way of life. [passage omitted]

[Kadivar] Why is it, then, that from time to time 'Arafat criticizes the proliferation of Islamism and the impact of Iran's role on the Islamic movements or at least complains about them? It is natural for Israel to say these things, but why Abu Ammar? [Yasir 'Arafat]

[Qaddumi] Abu 'Ammar wants the Islamist movement to be in contact with him and cooperate with him. Therefore the Islamist groups are in touch with him and cooperate with him within the PLO framework. There are many Islamist personalities who are in touch with 'Arafat. The problem only begins when some groups listen to the words of other Arab or non-Arab countries. This generates differences, which have proliferated in the aftermath of the signing of the accord.

[Kadivar] What is the outlook for the future of the region after peace between Israel and Arab countries?

[Qaddumi] It is not easy to talk of complete peace with Arab countries. For example, Syria has a clear stance that Israel should withdraw from all occupied Syrian and Lebanese territories. The Israelis say that they cannot function on two fronts simultaneously and that first of all, issues should be settled with the Palestinians. As you are aware, there are still many differences with the Palestinians with regard to withdrawal by Israel. Therefore, Syria will not sign any accord with Israel until it withdraws completely from Golan and Lebanon.

[Kadivar] While we have witnessed Abu Ammar reneging on his stance on talks with the Israelis, do you think Syria will do the same?

[Qaddumi] I do not think so. I know Hafiz al-Asad and Syrian policy very well and I do not believe he will retreat from his stance.

[Kadivar] As you mentioned, it was due to certain international developments that 'Arafat agreed to talks. The same conditions existed for Syria as well. Why was it that 'Arafat succumbed to these conditions and Syria did not?

[Qaddumi] No. The circumstances for the PLO were different from Syria's. If this little opening had not emerged, the PLO would have encountered financial and political crises. In fact, the PLO sought refuge in the Gaza-Jericho accord.

[Kadivar] How do you appraise relations between Iran and the PLO?

[Qaddumi] Our relations are in fact friendly and fraternal. Our embassy in Tehran is one of our largest embassies. Our ambassador in Iran is brother Abu Salah—Salah al-Zawawi—with whom I have been well acquainted since our youth. He is a dynamic, able, and intelligent person, who, despite various differences of opinion, has striven to maintain Iran-PLO relations at the desired level.

There are many differences and strains that I believe are tactical or ephemeral. All of us believe that we have a common enemy before us.

[Kadivar] What are your expectations of Iran?

[Qaddumi] That on the basis of its policy it will continue to defend us on the international level. As you see in the world today, there is a new system which conflicts with our aspirations and mores.

We should approach these circumstances in such a manner that we can reach our objectives.

[Kadivar] I thank you for answering my questions with such patience.

[Qaddumi] Thank you.

Al-Tarifi on Self-Rule, Future Plans

JN2706112594 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 27 Jun 94 p 23

[Interview with Jamil al-Tarifi, chairman of the Palestinian Civil Coordination Committee, by Tawfiq 'Abid in Amman; date not given]

[Excerpts] ['Abid] Palestinian-Israeli contacts are under way in preparation for the forthcoming negotiations. Where have these contacts reached and what is the agenda of negotiations?

[Al-Tarifi] The Cairo agreement is not a detailed agreement. There are economic, security, civil, and other committees which are following up the implementation of this agreement. Palestinian-Israeli contacts and nonnegotiating sessions are being held, but they all revolve around the appropriate method to implement the agreement in the best possible way.

According to the Oslo agreement, the phase of negotiations on early jurisdictions and redeployment of the Israeli Army should commence immediately after the signing of the Gaza-Jericho accord. This redeployment should be outside the residential areas—cities, villages, and camps.

Regarding the early negotiations, intensive contacts are underway to resume negotiations as soon as possible. I think negotiations can begin within two weeks on early jurisdictions, which include five areas. These are tourism, social affairs, education, health, and direct taxes. However, following the Hebron massacre and the Cairo agreement, it has become clear that in addition to the five early jurisdictions there should be agreement on other jurisdictions. This is what we are are going to do within the next few days, God willing.

['Abid] In the light of Hebron incidents, is there a new negotiating agenda?

[Al-Tarifi] The early jurisdictions were five, in addition to what the two sides may agree on. However, it emerged after the Hebron incidents that there should be more jurisdictions and we should agree to the nature of these additional jurisdictions. This is what we will negotiate very soon.

['Abid] How do you evaluate the start of the formation of the Palestinian authority and the performance of the national security forces in Gaza and Jericho?

[Al-Tarifi] I can say that every Palestinian and Arab takes pride in the performance of the Palestinian forces. In spite of the shortage of available means, these forces performed splendidly and the Palestinian people embraced them right from the beginning. We were afraid that the people's zeal over the return of the Palestinian security forces would soon abate, but now that the Palestinian celebrations marking their return are over, the citizens continue to be satisfied with their good performance. Our people under the Palestinian authority are psychologically comfortable. They are aware of the difference between occupation and the new situation. There are no more curfews, freedom restrictions, arrests, or storming of houses.

['Abid] Some speak of Israeli violations of the Cairo agreement. The latest was made by Dr. Sha'th. What is your comment?

[Al-Tarifi] The agreement exists and certainly there will be some violations from both sides. There are Israeli violations and there may be violations on our side. What is important is to resolve differences through the coordination committee without leaving any traces on which any future misunderstanding might be built and eventually affect the agreement.

['Abid] What about the Jericho crossing point? The agreement was signed more than one and a half months ago, but the situation at the crossing points is still the same.

[Al-Tarifi] It is known that independent Palestinian offices with a Palestinian flag will be established at the Jericho and Rafah crossing points. These offices will house a director, an administrative and security deputy, and Palestinian policemen. There will also be Israeli offices. I believe the relevant arrangements will be finalized within a week or 10 days at most, after which Palestinian policemen will arrive at the Rafah crossing point. As for the King Husayn Bridge, the arrangements will be discussed during a meeting between President 'Arafat and Yitzhaq Rabin in the near future.

['Abid] Why do you think President 'Arafat's arrival in the self-rule area has been postponed?

[Al-Tarifi] To begin with, we want the president to arrive in this area as soon as possible, so the sooner he arrives the better. However, I have this to say: Any Palestinian official who tells the media that the president will arrive in one or two weeks, and also any Palestinian official arriving in the territories claiming that he will prepare for the president's arrival is not telling the truth. 'Arafat has never announced that he would arrive after a certain period of time or that he would postpone such an arrival.

As far as I know, President 'Arafat will arrive in the near future. We in the territories need his early arrival, and I believe that 'Arafat understands the situation well. No doubt, arranging the Palestinian people's situation is very important, particularly with regard to the institutions, the cadres' entry, and the securing of financial aid to the Palestinian forces, institutions, and authority. President 'Arafat is working for these objectives day and night.

['Abid] You are leaving for Tunis. Are you carrying Palestinian or Israeli ideas or messages to the Palestinian leadership on the coming negotiations?

[Al-Tarifi] I am going to Tunis, and I shall be discussing many issues with President 'Arafat. In fact, we are in daily contact with 'Arafat to brief him on the situation in

the territories. However, some issues are difficult to discuss on the telephone, so they should be discussed face to face. These issues are related to the coming negotiations, specifically the early jurisdictions, the overall situation in the territories, and the Palestinian authority.

I would like to say that I am not carrying Israeli ideas. As head of the Civil Coordination Committee, I meet with Israeli officials several times a week to follow up on implementing the civil aspects of the Cairo agreement and also on future negotiations. However, there is no Israeli concept apart from the one expressed as part of both the overall peace process and the issues proposed for discussions.

['Abid] Frankly speaking, what is your comment on the recent developments in the negotiations on the Jordanian-Israeli track?

[Al-Tarifi] In fact, we welcome the Jordanian step, and we believe that it complements the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. This confirms that we did not sign a separate agreement with Israel and that we support completing the peace process on other Arab tracks. It was clear, however, that the Palestinian side did not let anyone decide its own destiny. The Palestinian people have a leadership that coordinates with all Arab parties . It is true that the Oslo agreement was not publicized because the talks were held in secret, but all Arab parties were fully briefed on the Cairo negotiations. I would like to emphasize that our relationship with Jordan is an integral one, and that we are one people. Consequently, we believe that the Jordanian approach is correct, and we hope it will bear fruit soon.

As Palestinians, we are interested in joining the Arab ranks and we do not want to rush westward. We, however, want to go westward along with our brothers in Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, and Egypt after reaching an understanding on agreed issues.

['Abid] What is your comment on the remarks made by His Highness Crown Prince Hasan the Regent regarding the establishment of a federal state [dawlah ittihadiyah] east of Israel on the two banks of the River Jordan?

[Al-Tarifi] This is a purely Jordanian matter, into which we will not poke our noses. For His Royal Highness Prince Hasan has the right to choose the name he likes for his country. The name the United Hashemite Kingdom is fine with us if the Jordanian people and leadership endorse this.

As for us, the successive sessions of the Palestine National Council [PNC] have endorsed confederation between the two banks of the River Jordan. A confederation is based on two separate political entities that complement one another. [passage omitted]

['Abid] Some believe that there has been a delay in the return of the PLO cadres, particularly civilian cadres, to Gaza and Jericho, and that the promises made to the Palestinians have not been kept. In your opinion, what is behind all this?

[Al-Tarifi] There are attempts to brand the Palestinian authority as impotent, to say that it will remain so, and that it will fail. Well, we are not sitting at doorsteps, begging for aid. Nonetheless, we believe that Arab and foreign countries owe us certain rights, particularly since the Palestinian debacle is the outcome of Arab and international developments.

I believe that some aid has been received. At the recent conference held by donor nations, it was agreed to provide the self- rule authority with $42 million, with the understanding that the aid will be resumed so that Palestinian institutions can perform their tasks. The picture is not so bleak or gloomy. But, there are many parties that seek to depict us as failures. These parties want to say that what has taken place on the Palestinian territories has been no more than ceremonial events that have come to an end.

By the way, I would like to say that the Palestinian leadership has concluded a telecommunications agreements with an international firm so that we may not remain tied to the Israeli telecommunications corporation. A similar agreement has been concluded with an international electrical firm to supply the Gaza Strip with electric power so that we may not remain hostage to the Israelis.

A third agreement has been signed with another firm to supply the Palestinian authority with oil from the international market. This firm has obtained a concession, and it will have huge storage tanks in Gaza.

Additionally, the Palestinian authority has signed two tenders for the construction of two airports, one in Gaza and the other in Jericho. A contract has also been signed to construct a fishing port in Gaza. Another contract has been signed to build housing units in the autonomous areas. Within the next few weeks, efforts to carry out these tenders, the overall cost of which exceeds $1.5 billion, will begin. [passage omitted]

['Abid] The Cairo agreement has not thus far been endorsed by the Palestinian legislative bodies. Have any arrangements been made for the holding of a PNC session?

[Al-Tarifi] I believe that the PLO Central Council, and not the PNC, may hold a session in the territories. Right now, all our efforts are focused on entrenching our presence in the territories.

The Israeli authorities have approved the repatriation of most members of the PLO Central Council. So, the PLO Central Council may convene in Palestine. And consequently, it could debate the agreement.

Al-Nashashibi: Accord With Israel 'Unbalanced'

BR2706145194 Paris LA TRIBUNE DESFOSSES in French 24-25 Jun 94 p 7

[Interview with Muhammad al-Nashashibi, Palestinian Authority "finance minister," by Pascal Lacorie in Jerusalem; date not given: "Palestinian Autonomy: 'Agreement With Israel Utterly Unbalanced'"—first paragraph is LA TRIBUNE DESFOSSES introduction]

[Text] Muhammad al-Nashashibi is the Palestinian Authority's new finance "minister." Based in Jericho, this 68-year-old banker is preparing to draft his first budget.

[Lacorie] How much time do you require to collect taxes for the first time?

[Al-Nashashibi] Everything should be operational within a month at the most. However, we have a huge task ahead of us. For instance, I need to find Palestinians to replace the 351 Israelis who took care of fiscal and financial matters as part of the military administration.

'We also need to recover all computer files pertaining to taxes and custom duties currently scattered among various Israeli ministries.

[Lacorie] Did you receive the $42-million (240 million French francs) in emergency aid which the international community pledged to grant earlier this month?

[Al-Nashashibi] No, we have not received anything so far. This is not what matters right now, though. We must first set to work, and the money will follow.

[Lacorie] Has Yasir 'Arafat postponed his arrival in the autonomous territories to protest the fact that this aid package has still not materialized?

[Al-Nashashibi] President 'Arafat stated that he could not come in a bankruptcy context, but there are other reasons as well. In any case, the other members of the Palestinian Authority will come to Jericho in two weeks; I hope the president will do the same.

[Lacorie] What do you think of the economic component of the agreement entered into with Israel?

[Al-Nashashibi] This agreement, which was put together in Paris, is utterly unbalanced, and we shall try to renegotiate it as soon as possible, as all it does is protect Israeli interests. We had to agree to applying the same custom duties as Israel does, for the sole purpose of sparing Israeli firms any inconvenience. Another example: We shall be able to sell oil fuels at a price only 15 percent lower than that in Israel, even though we could have purchased oil products at a much better price from Arab countries and passed the saving on to our population.

Obviously, should we fail to make significant amendments to the agreement, the Palestinian population will be very disappointed and frustrated.

Abu-Sharif on Opposition, U.S. Support, Jordan

JN2706182194 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 27 Jun 94 pp 16, 17

[Interview with Bassam Abu-Sharif, political adviser to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, by Riyad Mansur; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [Mansur] The date for the arrival of President Yasir 'Arafat in Jericho has been postponed several times. What are the causes of this postponement? What are the problems he is facing?

[Abu-Sharif] President Yasir 'Arafat will not enter the autonomous areas unless the pledges made by the donor nations, the EEC members, and other industrialized nations about financing infrastructure, development, and economic growth projects in the Palestinian territories are honored. This is because President 'Arafat does not want his entry there to be merely ceremonial. He wants to go the autonomous areas to rebuild the infrastructure, and to launch economic development projects there. Consequently, and despite the speculation of all, I would like to say that setting a date for his arrival in the autonomous areas is contingent upon his trust that the required funds, for the initial period at least, have been earmarked so that the implementation of projects may start. Otherwise, what would be the meaning of his arrival there? We are not seeking ceremonies. What we want is to rebuild the infrastructure, as well as the economy. Our people in the territories want to build their homeland. But, at the same time, they also want to work for a better life. [passage omitted]

[Mansur] The Palestinian police have begun their work by arresting some Islamist leaders. Some have said that this will result in a confrontation between the police and the people. Do you expect this confrontation to continue or subside, given the fact that the Palestinian opposition has refused to surrender its weapons to the police?

[Abu-Sharif] The Palestinian opposition is legal. The democratic atmosphere we seek to create in Palestine will grant opposition factions the opportunity to express their views through the printed and audio/visual media. They will even be allowed to stage demonstrations. This is a right guaranteed to them. This will create a vibrant society. The opposition is the guarantee that the leadership will continue to seek perfect decisions. Nonetheless, when the opposition resorts to violence, it becomes illegal. The opposition is guaranteed the full right to express its views within the context of the freedom of expression ensured in a democracy. However, when you use violence, you revoke the rights guaranteed you by the democratic society. This is because the faction that uses violence violates democratic traditions. Consequently, the factions engaged in violence will be pursued; and pursuing these factions is a right. [passage omitted]

[Mansur] President 'Arafat has not thus far completed the formation of the Palestinian authority. It has been

reported that you have rejected an offer by 'Arafat to take the information portfolio. Will you tell us why you rejected this offer?

[Abu-Sharif] I have refused to take any portfolio, or to assume any responsible position at this point in time. This does not mean that I am abandoning my sacred duty to play any role or perform any task that would promote the interests of the Palestinian people. For, throughout my lifetime of struggle, I have always sought to promote the interests of the Palestinian people, and advance the Palestinian cause.

As a matter of fact, this issue has something to do with personal convictions that I have regarding the prerequisites of creating a democracy in Palestine. [passage omitted]

[Mansur] In retrospect, we now realize that we cannot count on the political and material support of the Americans forever. Look at what happened to al-Sadat and Gorbachev. What is the PLO betting on?

[Abu-Sharif] When it comes to the Arabs, don't look for the word support in the American dictionary. The United States has its interests to look after. The Arabs should have the intelligence to create circumstances that will make their interests coincide with those of the United States. Then the Arabs will do well and the United States will necessarily support the Arabs. Such are the rules that today's world lives by. It is up to us to create the conditions for that to happen. The United States has strategic interests in the region. These translate as oil, markets, and geography. We have only ourselves to blame. We should have stood up for our rights. We have failed to deal with the United States as an equal. This, despite the fact that the United States depends in a big way on our oil, resources, markets, and strategic position.

There is no such thing as unilateral interests. Interests are a two-way street. Those who are taking revenge on Iraq now do not know that their vengeance will be revisited upon them. Unless the Arabs agree on a modicum of solidarity in order to protect their interests in a world ruled by big powers, the Arab world will sink. Iraq is a significant player in Arab politics, and yet the Iraqi people are being starved and denied medicine, without a finger being lifted in their defense.

[Mansur] And yet the PLO abandoned Iraq, having supported it during the Gulf war.

[Abu-Sharif] The PLO had consistently sought a resolution to the Iraq-Kuwait issue, and in concert with certain European nations strove to avert war and then open the way for a political solution. But the PLO's effort proved fruitless, since the United States wanted to hurt Iraq, not liberate Kuwait.

[Mansur] Iraq has taken a negative attitude toward the Gaza- Jericho First accord out of its concern for the territorial integrity of Palestine.

[Abu-Sharif] Any country is free to criticize the Gaza-Jericho First accord. There is room for a diversity of opinion on a political settlement. The Palestinians are tolerant of criticism on that score. But the Iraq affair is more serious that the Gaza-Jericho First issue. The aim is to marginalize the role of the Arab nation by targeting its military and financial backbone in Iraq so that the United States succeed in imposing a settlement on its terms. If the Palestinians stomached Gaza-Jericho, that was a case of the choice of the lesser evil.

[Mansur] It is no secret that the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship is not exactly at its best. Amman does not hide its dissatisfaction. Why do you think that is? And how do you think excellent and solid ties can be forged with Jordan?

[Abu-Sharif] Coordination necessarily presupposes talks before decisions are made. Coordination cannot be a matter of one party informing the other party that an agreement has been reached. However, things are not that simple. My idea of coordination is for the parties to combine their strengths. Neither the PLO, nor Jordan, nor Syria, nor Lebanon, can become any stronger unless there is real coordination among themselves about the items on the agenda of the negotiations.

Coordination is a lever that could promote the interests of all sides. The party that fails to effect coordination with the other sides will fall into the Israeli trap. For despite its peace program, the Israeli Government has set traps. It seeks to drive wedges between the Arab sides, because it makes gains when it deals with the Arab sides one at a time. I would like to say clearly that had there been true, profound, and sincere coordination among Palestine, Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon, and had these parties obtained the necessary Arab support, we would have obtained a better deal than the Cairo agreement signed by President Yasir 'Arafat. Nonetheless, I do consider the Cairo agreement a historic step regardless of the reservations some might have about it.

Inter-Arab coordination, particularly coordination between the Palestinians and Jordanians, is necessary. We have a problem that has preoccupied the minds of all. Nonetheless, nobody seems to be speaking about it. Since time immemorial, Palestine and Jordan have been one country and one family. How then can there be two communities, two families, and two countries at present? The solution that would meet all requirements of the people in the two banks of the River Jordan and Gaza Strip lies in the launching of a single state consisting of Gaza, the West Bank, and the East Bank, regardless of the form this state might take, be it a confederation or a federation. If all parties, particularly those endowed with wisdom and vision, do not act on the basis of the fact that this community is a single community, and that this people are one people and part of a single country, the population of these three areas may not be able to confront Israel, which is seeking to swallow up the region, but economically this time.

[Mansur] How does the PLO view the momentum seen on the Jordanian-Israeli track of negotiations, especially with regard to the agreement on talks to demarcate borders?

[Abu-Sharif] King Husayn is one of the few Arab leaders who possess both vision and wisdom. Some Arab rulers might possess wisdom, but be lacking in vision; while others might possess vision, but be lacking in wisdom. But, King Husayn has both. Through his recent political moves, King Husayn has sought to put things right, particularly since the peace process is progressing. And since the peace process is a reflection of the international community's desire to achieve stability in the Middle East, Jordan, which has always advocated the attainment of a lasting and durable peace in the region, was bound to make its own contributions to the peace process to promote it. I am well aware that his majesty the king is fully supportive of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. In the same vein, I am also aware that his majesty the king has his own views regarding the unity of the people in the two banks of the River Jordan and Gaza Strip. His majesty the king is well aware that this area; namely, the East Bank of the River Jordan, the West Bank, and Gaza Strip are capable of becoming a bastion to defend the Arab region in the face of expansionism. We believe that His Majesty King Husayn is a leader endowed with both vision and wisdom. Likewise, we believe that Yasir 'Arafat is also a leader endowed with both vision and wisdom. We also believe that these two leaders, if they coordinate their positions and moves well, can protect the Arab nation and enable it to meet future challenges. [passage omitted]

Authority Minister Hits 'Erroneous Practices'

PM2706150094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 25 Jun 94 p 6

[Unattributed report: "In Statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Palestinian Authority Minister Attacks 'Erroneous Practices' in Gaza and Jericho"]

[Excerpts] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—A Palestinian Authority minister has attacked the Palestinian leadership's working methods and the manner in which it deals with the self-rule areas. 'Azmi al-Shu'aybi (from the Fida party) criticized the policy of domination and monopolization pursued in the entire political, security, economic, and administrative structure being set up. He warned against transferring the deformities afflicting the PLO and its experiment in exile to Palestinian territory, because that would lead to its failure.

Dr. al-Shu'aybi, sports and youths minister, said in a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that "we in the Palestinian Democratic Union 'Fida' decided to participate in the authority in order to serve our people in this stage. From the outset we have called for abandoning old working methods and the policy of domination, not politicizing the institutions, and reducing reliance on individuals in favor of institutional action based on competence and the real need. Despite our knowledge of the chronic ailments in Palestinian action outside the homeland, we wagered and continue to wager on the role of popular control over the institutions to be moved to the homeland. Because the Palestinian people, who have waited all these years and succeeded in returning their leadership from abroad, will not allow incompetent structures to be imposed on them from abroad." [passage omitted]

Al-Shu'aybi pointed to the danger of militarizing the institutions and to the militias' control of citizens' life and food. He said that "the most dangerous thing facing us is the lack of clear powers and the separation between security and and police services operating in Gaza and Jericho. Our people have begun to openly express their indignation at the spread of security services and the way in which the preventive security service operates. And numerous field commanders still have not comprehended the fact that the authority does not belong to Fatah and that Gaza and Jericho are not another Lebanon."

He added, "we are a responsible and constructive opposition using the weapon of criticism, which expresses the people's feelings and their discontent at methods which are alien to their struggle traditions through which they confronted the occupation over the past years. While we criticize erroneous practices and participate in the Palestinian Authority, we raise our voice to avert mistakes and correct the march immediately. We expressed this in front of Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, whose impartiality we respect and appreciate." [passage omitted]

Reactions to Detainees Issue Detailed

NC2706212194 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 27 Jun 94

[Report by Muhammad Bishqar from Beirut]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The issue of the Palestinian detainees in the jails of the Zionist occupation authorities continues to be the focus of public activity in occupied Palestine. A general strike was observed today in the West Bank, occupied Jerusalem, and the two Palestinian autonomous areas of Gaza and Jericho to show solidarity with thousands of Palestinian detainees who reject the Zionist conditions for their release. They have been on a hunger strike since last week.

Today's strike was accompanied by massive demonstrations in West Bank towns and refugee camps and sit-ins in front of the offices of the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] in Gaza and Jericho. The protesters called for the detainees' unconditional release and criticized the PLO leadership's method of handling the detainee issue.

Hundreds of Palestinian detainees in the Zionist jail in Nabulus have also assailed the PLO leadership. In a

statement today, they leveled sharp criticisms at Yasir 'Arafat's leadership style which exploits the detainee issue as a bargaining chip. The statement affirmed that the detainees will persist in refusing to sign declarations of support for the peace agreement with the enemy or promise to halt the intifadah as a condition for their release.

Ahmad Jibril's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] distributed a leaflet in the West Bank blaming 'Arafat's leadership for the continued suffering of thousands of Palestinian detainees in the enemy's jails. The PFLP-GC called on the Palestinian people to continue their intifadah and express solidarity with the detainees by demonstrating and holding sit-ins.

The Forces of the Palestinian Alliance that comprise the 10 factions opposed to the peace agreement with the enemy organized a sit-in today for the second day running in front of the ICRC office in Damascus to declare solidarity with the detainees. The protesters delivered a message to ICRC officials, to be forwarded to the United Nations, calling for the prompt and unconditional release of all Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails regardless of their political affiliations.

Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, declared in the Syrian capital today that the Palestinian detainee issue is the focus of a fresh popular resurgence inside and outside occupied Palestine. Hawatimah emphasized that the Palestinians are confident now that the peace agreement between the PLO and the Zionist enemy does not serve their interests and cannot survive because of the complex problems hindering its implementation, particularly in connection with the issues of Jerusalem, the detainees, and Palestinian human rights.

Algeria

Dembri Hails Results of AMU Council Session

LD2806090594 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 28 Jun 94

[Text] The proceedings of the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] Ministerial Council's 15th session ended yesterday at Djnan el Mithaq Residence. Algerian Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri, who chaired the proceedings, delivered a closing speech in which he stressed the excellent positive results that were achieved during this session, and which will undoubtedly contribute toward boosting and entrenching the Maghreban unionist action.

Here now follows a statement given by the foreign minister to our colleague Ahmed Kheda, in which he assessed the results of the session:

[Begin Dembri recording] The session had a special importance because for the first time the agenda enabled us to conduct a profound study on how to renew the working method of the AMU. On the other hand, during this session we managed to break away from traditional considerations and begin building economic integration.

As you are aware, Algeria tabled three proposals relating to the construction of factories whose products would meet all Maghreban needs like railways, pipelines etc... This is a new working method, and I believe that the foreign ministers have placed the Maghreban train on the right track.

This is the conclusion I got from this session. In parallel, our political consultation was excellent, because for the first time we witnessed the presence of a Maghreban sensitivity without any divergence in opinions, especially when we reviewed all issues on the international level, and everything that affects the common Arab destiny. [end recording]

Statement Issued on Talks With Yemeni Delegation

LD2706223694 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 27 Jun 94

[Text] Foreign Affairs Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri received today the Yemeni parliamentary delegation led by Mr. 'Abd al-Wahab Mahmud, deputy speaker of the parliament and chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee. The delegation is visiting Algeria in the framework of a mission aimed at informing and consulting with the Transitional National Council.

A Foreign Ministry statement said that the talks dealt with the latest developments in Yemen. In this respect, the Yemeni delegation gave the parliament's view on the fratricidal fighting that is tearing the country apart. The delegation also expressed the parliament's desire to use every means to achieve a settlement of the conflict with the help of sister and friendly countries.

The statement added that Mr. Dembri had insisted on the pressing need for the warring sides to stop the fighting in order to provide the minimum conditions for the resumption of the dialogue and open the way to a peaceful settlement of the conflict. In this context, the minister affirmed Algeria's readiness to contribute to the efforts aimed at ending the conflict between the brothers in Yemen.

Trial of Boudiaf Assassin Set for Jul

LD2706212694 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 27 Jun 94

[Text] The court of criminal appeal of Algiers Judicial Council today issued a ruling in the case of the deceased president, Mohamed Boudiaf, and decided to refer the defendant Boumaarafi Lembarek to the criminal court of Algiers Judicial Council. Boumaarafi is charged with committing a premeditated murder, causing deliberate injuries with firearms, and planning to topple the regime. These crimes are punishable in accordance with Articles 254, 255, 261, 256, 257, 77, and 266 of the penal code.

It is worth noting that the court of criminal appeal had, on 1 March 1994, ruled in favor of further investigations into the case to examine all the elements of the inquiry. Afterwards the measures linked to these additional inquiries were implemented by the examining magistrate who was busy completing the investigation entrusted to him. At the end of his mission, the magistrate sent the file back to the court of criminal appeal of Algiers Judicial Council which, after examining it, ruled to refer the defendant Boumaarafi Lembarek to the criminal court of Algiers Judicial Council. Thus, the case is now ready to be examined at a trial. The trial is due to start in July 1994, in accordance with the provisions of the law.

Security Services Kill 2 Involved in Assassination

LD2706222294 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 27 Jun 94

[Text] The security services announced that yesterday they killed the two terrorists who assassinated the late Abdelkader Alloula. These two terrorists, together with a third, assassinated a policeman yesterday in Oran near the Bouakeul stadium. The operation allowed the security services to recover an automatic revolver, a machine gun, and other ammunition.

The security services also killed 14 terrorists between Thursday and Saturday and recovered a large quantity of weapons.

The security services also announced that Mr. Lakhdar Toumi—age 51, an imam, and the father of nine children—was assassinated on Friday [24 June] in Medea Province inside the Abu Bakr Siddik mosque as he was giving the Friday sermon.

Egypt

Mubarak Returns From Libya Visit

NC2706165994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1605 GMT 27 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 27 Jun (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak returned to Cairo this afternoon following a two-day visit to the Libyan al-Jamahiriyah, during which he held intensive talks with Libyan revolution leader Brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi that dealt with the Libyan-Western crisis, "Lockerbie," and Egypt's efforts to find a solution to it.

The two leaders' talks also focused on developments in the Yemeni crisis, the Middle East peace talks developments, and the situation on all the tracks of the Arab-Israeli negotiations. The talks also dealt with developments in Africa, the outcome of the recent OAU summit in Tunis, and the consultations held by the African leaders on the summit sidelines.

The Egyptian and Libyan delegations also discussed bilateral relations and assessed their views of the decisions already made by the higher Egyptian-Libyan committee. The two sides discussed within this context the implementation of the project to extend by 170 kms the railroad between Musa'id and Tubruq.

The official delegation that accompanied the president during the visit returned with him.

Musa on Golan Withdrawal, Yemen

NC2706130794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1130 GMT 27 Jun 94

[Text] Beirut, 27 Jun (MENA)—Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that the comprehensive peace in which Egypt believes must be based on Israel's withdrawal from all the territories it occupied in 1967, self-determination for the Palestinian people, and an agreement on an overall settlement that could ensure security, withdrawal, and coexistence among the region's peoples.

In an interview with the Lebanese newspaper AL-DIYAR published today, Musa said that progress on any of the Arab-Israeli peace tracks will help the other tracks in the same way as failure on any track will harm the others. He added that progress on the Palestinian-Israeli track was followed by progress on the Jordanian track, noting that negotiations on the Palestinian track were in parallel with endeavors and talks along the Syrian track. He noted that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has visited the region more than once to boost the Syrian-Israeli track. He stressed that Egypt believes the Syrian-Israeli track is the main track that could prove crucial to the fate of the comprehensive peace or the Middle East problem.

Musa pointed out that we believe in basic principles, namely, that Syria is entitled to regain the Golan according to the 4 June 1967 borders, which would necessitate an Israeli military and civilian withdrawal up to these borders. He added that Egypt is closely following the contacts being held in connection with the Arab-Israeli talks. He emphasized that the Syrian-Israeli track is of particular importance to Egypt, because what is in the interest of the Syrian brothers is in Egypt's interest and because no comprehensive peace can be achieved without Israel's withdrawal from the Golan. The foreign minister hoped that progress would be achieved along this track in the coming stage.

Regarding the Palestinian issue, Musa said that what is required now is to move from Gaza and Jericho to the remaining occupied territories and then hold negotiations for a final solution. He warned against one-upmanship in the Palestinian arena. He added: Inter-Palestinian collision or one-upmanship over political movement are not needed; the important thing is to gear the Palestinian issue toward serving its goals—self-determination for the Palestinian people.

On the developments in Yemen, the Egyptian foreign minister warned that if the current fighting continues, expectations are that things will be "extremely bad." The continuation of this war, the ongoing killing, and the victims resulting from this war cannot preserve any unity or serve as a basis for the future of a state or a people, he added. If the current UN contacts fail, the international as well as the Arab legality will not remain silent about the continuation of this war; Yemen's survival and future are now at stake, he added. Musa ruled out any Arab or foreign military intervention to end the deteriorating conditions in Yemen.

Saudi Arms for Yemen Said Found in Egyptian Boats

NC2706190894 Paris AFP in English 1625 GMT 27 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, June 27 (AFP)—The US navy recently discovered two Egyptian ships in the Red Sea carrying Saudi weapons to south Yemen, an Egyptian journalist has charged. Muhammad Hasanayn Haykal said in a lecture at Cairo University: "The US navy in the Red Sea recently intercepted and requisitioned two Egyptian boats transporting Saudi arms to south Yemen."

AFP obtained Monday [27 June] a copy of Haykal's lecture, given Wednesday 22 June]. But the US naval command centre based in Florida, covering the Middle East, told AFP they were unaware of any incident and had not received any internal report on the matter. Haykal was close to former Egyptian President Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir, and has many Arab and western contacts.

An Egyptian source, who asked not to be named, said he could not confirm or deny the claim. "Egypt's position in principle is not to contribute to any effort to supply arms to either of the Yemeni parties," he said.

Opposition newspaper AL-'ARABI said Monday the two boats intercepted by the US navy returned to Egypt with their cargo.

Egypt's President Husni Mubarak recently criticised northern Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih for his "insistence" on trying to maintain unity, saying it could not be achieved by force. But Cairo has not recognised the breakaway Yemen Democratic Republic, declared by the south on May 21.

War broke out between Salih's forces and those of his southern rival 'Ali Salim al-Bid on May 5.

Paper Criticizes Sanaa Rejection of Mediation

NC2806074294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0608 GMT 28 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 28 Jun (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR says the leaders of Yemen have become the Serbian leaders' primary competitors for record cease-fire announcements that only end in more vicious fighting.

But the Yemeni leaders stand out for using the daily cease-fire violations to kill as many of their own innocent civilians as possible and to destroy the facilities and installations for which the Yemeni people have paid huge amounts of money, the paper says in its editorial today.

It says the arrogant and intransigent positions of some Yemeni leaders and their rejection of any Arab mediation will not solve the problem. Indeed they will make things worse, deepen the wounds, and make it more difficult—if not impossible—for things to return to normal.

AL-AKHBAR notes extensive Arab diplomatic activity to end the conflict and asks why the Sanaa government is sending envoys at the same time as it rejects Arab mediation as interference in its internal affairs.

The paper expresses the fear that the Yemeni crisis may be internationalized given that some non-Arab quarters are exploiting it. This will only make things worse, it says.

National Dialogue Participants Listed

NC2506152794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1220 GMT 25 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 25 Jun (MENA)—The names of the members of the National Dialogue General Congress, which was opened by President Husni Mubarak, were announced today. It has been decided that Dr. Mustafa Khalil will be secretary general of the congress. The congress includes the following members: The representatives of the political parties: The National Democratic Party [NDP], the National Progressive Unionist Grouping [NPUG], the Labor Party, the Liberal Party, the Socialist Arab Party of Egypt, the Ummah Party, the Greens Party, the Social Justice Party, and the Democratic Unionist Party. Among the congress members are 36 members from the People's Assembly and 29 from the Consultative Council. In addition there are the chiefs of professional associations and trade unions, and a number of prominent journalists and media men, including Mustafa Najib, MENA Board chairman and chief editor. The congress members also include a number of university professors, teaching staff club members, researchers, and scientists in the scientific research centers, members of local councils, youths and sports committees, chambers of commerce, industry, and tourism, businessmen as well as individuals who are interested in the fields of youths and sports, economists, and representatives of women, nongovernmental societies, the general federation of cooperatives, a number of winners of state awards, artists, public figures, the specialized national councils, and university student unions.

The following are the names of the National Dialogue Congress, which were announced today:

The political parties:

For the NDP: Dr. Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister, agriculture minister and NDP secretary general; Safwat al-Sharif, information minister and NDP assistant secretary general; Kamal al-Shadhili, minister of state for the People's Assembly and Consultative Council affairs and NDP assistant secretary general

For the NPUG: Khalid Muhyi-al-Din, NPUG leader; Lutfi Wakid, NPUG deputy leader; Dr. Rif'at al-Sayyid, NPUG secretary general; Dr. Judah 'Abd-al-Khaliq, the economic committee secretary

For the Labor Party: Engineer Ibrahim Shukri, Labor Party leader; Muhammad Mahmud 'Azzam; 'Adil Muhammad Husayn; Major General Tal'at Ahmad Musallam

For the Liberal Party: Mustafa Kamil Murad, party leader; Engineer 'Abd-al-Fattah al-Shurbaji, party secretary general; Dr. Yasir Ramadan, member of the party presidium; Dr. Huda 'Afifi

For the Socialist Arab Party of Egypt: Jamal Rabi', party leader; Dr. Hasan Muhammad Kamal, deputy leader; Dr. Mahmud Kamil al-Rayyis, deputy leader; Dr. Salah Hidayr , chairman of the party's advisory committee

For the Social Justice Party: Dr. Muhammad 'Abd-al-'Al, party leader; Muhammad Mahmud al-Kurdi; Dr. Midhat 'Aziz Balawah; Dr. Amani Bushra Faraj For the Ummah Party: Ahmad al-Sabahi, party leader; Muhammad Hamid 'Amarah; Muhammad Badr Abu-Hadid; 'Abd-al-Rahman Muhammad 'Abd-al-Hafiz

For the Greens Party: Kamal Kirah, party leader; Dr. Ibrahim Muhammad Kilani; Dr. 'Abd-al-Mun'im 'Ali al-'A'sar, member of the party's higher committee; Dr. Baha'-al-Din Hafiz Bakri, deputy party leader

For the Democratic Unionist Party: Ibrahim Muhammad 'Abd-al-Mun'im Turk, party leader; Ahmad 'Abd-al-Muhsin Farahat; Zaki Faraj; Muhammad Mustafa al-Sharqawi

People's Assembly members: Ahmad Hamadi; Muhammad 'Abdallah; Dr. Amin Mubarak; Engineer Abu-Bakr al-Basil; Salah al-Taruti; Al-Sayyid Sarhan; Kamal Henry Abadir; Sa'd al-Shirbini; Muhammad Tulbah 'Uwaydah; Ahmad Fu'ad 'Abd-al-'Aziz; Husayn al-Sayrafi; Muhammad Muhammad Juwayli; Dr. Zakariya 'Azmi; Dr. Faruq Rakha; Tariq al-Jundi; Ahmad Haykal; Edward Ghali al-Dhahabi; Fathi Bayyumi; Ahmad Abu-Zayd; Hamdi al-Tahhan; 'Abd-al-Fattah Diyab; Tal'at Mustafa; Ahmad Khayri; 'Abd-al-Rahman Barakah; Sa'd Bahnasawi; 'Abd-al-Wahhab Qutah; Muhammad Abu-Sudayrah; Muhammad Abu-al-Hasan Ghanim; Muhammad Khalil Hafiz; Ahmad Taha Ahmad; Husayn al-Mahdi; Muhammad Abu-al-Fadl al-Jizawi; Muhammad Mahmud Hasan; Husayn Wishahi; Mustafa Sulayman; Muhammad al-Sandayuni

Consultative Council members: 'Abd-al-'Al al-Jarihi; Ahmad Fathi Mursi; Ahmad Rashad Musa; Muhammad Zaki Malik; Dr. Mahmud Mahfuz; Engineer Ahmad 'Abd-al-Akhir; Dr. Isma'il Salam; Muhammad Hilmi al-Sharif; Ma'mun Salih Mashali; Engineer Fu'ad Abu-Zaghlah; Engineer Muhyi-al-Din 'Abd-al-Latif; Engineer 'Ali 'Abd-al-'Azim Abu-Jaziyah; Dr. Husayn Muhammad Hijazi; Engineer Rushdi al-Sharqawi; Dr. Muhammad 'Abd-al-Fattah al-Qassas; Dr. Hamdi al-Hakim; Dr. Fathi Muhammad 'Ali; Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahim Imam Bayyumi; Dr. Muhammad Tal'at 'Abd-al-'Aziz; Engineer Husayn 'Uthman 'Uthman; Mahmud Najib Husni; Nabil Muhammad Mansi; Muhammad Ahmad Qurashi; Muhammad Kamal Sulayman; Muhammad Rajab Ahmad; Jamal al-Mahdi; Muhammad 'Id Adam; 'Abd-al-'Aziz Yusuf; 'Abd-al-'Aziz Jabr

For the Professional Associations: Ahmad al-Khawajah, president of the Lawyers' Association; Dr. Hamdi al-Sayyid, president of the Doctors' Association; Engineer Hasaballah al-Kafrawi, president of the Engineers' Association; Dr. Muhammad Hilmi Nammar, president of the Traders' Association; Thuraya Lubnah, president of the Social Workers' Association; Engineer Ahmad Abu-Ghanimah, president of the Applied Artists' Association; Dr. Sulayman Hajar, president of the Athletes' Association; Dr. Zakariya Jad, president of the Pharmacists' Association; Dr. Abu-al-Futuh 'Abd-al-Latif, president of the Teachers' Association; Ibrahim Nafi', president of the Journalists' Association; Faruq 'Afifi, president of the Agriculturalists' Association; Dr. 'Ali Musa, president of the Veterinarians' Association; Yusuf 'Uthman, president of the Film Industry Association; Hamdi Ghayth, president of the Actors' Association; Munib Shafi'i, president of the Chamber for Film Industry

For the trade unions: Sayyid Rashid, Labor Federation; Mustafa Manji, Labor Federation; Husayn Mujawir, Labor Federation; 'A'ishah 'Abd-al-Hadi, Labor Federation

For the press, media, and prominant writers: Muhammad Tharwat Abazah; Makram Muhammad Ahmad; Salah Muntasir; Lutfi al-Khawli; Ibrahim Sa'dah; Amin Basyuni; Samir Rajab; Mahmud al-Tihami; Mahmud 'Abd-al-Mun'im Murad; Samir Sarhan; 'Abd-al-'Azim Ramadan; Sa'd-al-Din Wahbah; Jalal 'Isa; Mustafa Najib; Nabil 'Uthman; Muhammad Jalal Duwaydar; Labib Yunan; 'Abd-al-'Aziz Sadiq;'Abd-al-Sattar al-Tawilah; Rajab al-Banna; Mahfuz al-Ansari; 'Abd-al-Wahhab Mutawi'; Mursi Isma'il 'Atallah; Raja' al-Naqqash; Mamduh al-Laythi; Usamah al-Ghazali Harb; Hamdi al-Kunayyisi; Dr. 'Adil 'Izz; Dr. Lutfi 'Abd-al-Khaliq; Dr. Muhammad Kamil; Dr. 'Ali Hubaysh

Universities and teaching staff club members: Dr. Mufid Shihab, Cairo University president; Dr. 'Abd-al-Wahhab 'Abd-al-Hafiz, 'Ayn Shams University president; Dr. 'Isam Salim, Alexandria University president; Dr. Muhammad Raja'i al-Tahlawi, Asyut University president; Dr. Ramzi al-Sha'ir, al-Zaqaziq University president; Dr. Saqr Muhammad Saqr, al-Minufiyah University president; Dr. Jamal Abu-al-Makarim, al-Minya University president; Dr. Shawqi al-Sayyid Khatir, Tanta University president; Dr. Ahmad Duwaydar 'Abduh, Suez Canal University president; Dr. 'Ali Ramzi, 'Ayn Shams University vice president; Dr. Sa'd al-Khawaliqah, Alexandria University vice president; Dr. Ahmad 'Umar Hashim, al-Azhar University vice president; Dr. 'Abd-al-Ahad Jamal-al-Din, a professor at the 'Ayn Shams University; Dr. Muhammad Sabri al-Shabrawi, a professor at the American University of Cairo; Dr. Midhat Darwish, head of the teaching staff club of the 'Ayn Shams University; Dr. Muhammad Ibrahim Ramadan, Alexandria University vice president; Dr. Ramadan Abu-al-'Ula, a professor at Alexandria University; Dr. Kamal Muhammad Qandil, chief of the teaching staff club of Alexandria University; Dr. Ahmad al-Shaykh, chief of the teaching staff club of the al-Zaqaziq University; Dr. Ahmad Isma'il Khidr, a former university president; Dr. Samir Tubar, al-Zaqaziq University vice president; Dr. Mustafa al-Sa'id, a professor at the economics college at Cairo University; Dr. Mahir 'Abd-al-Wahhab, a professor at the engineering college in al-Minya University; Dr. Ahmad al-Sayyid al-Sawi, a professor at Cairo University law college; Dr. Ibrahim Shalabi, a professor at Cairo University economics college; Dr. Muhammad Hasanayn 'Abd-al-'Al, a professor at Cairo University law college; Dr. Su'ad al-Sharqawi, a professor at Cairo university law college; Dr. Ahmad Mashhur, a professor at 'Ayn Shams University college of medicine; Dr. al-Sa'di Farhud, al-Azhar University former president. Dr. 'Atiyah Saqr, al-Azhar former deputy imam; Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam 'Abd-al-Ghaffar, 'Ayn Shams University former president; Dr. Muhammad Sa'id 'Abd-al-Fattah, Alexandria University former president; Dr. Isma'il al-Diftar, a professor at the principles of religion college; Dr. Abu-al-Wafa al-Taftazani, head of the Sufi School and Cairo University vice president; Dr. Abd-al-Fattah al-Shaykh,

al-Azhar University president; Dr. Ahmad Kamal Abu-al-Majd, a professor at the Cairo University law college

Economics and banking experts: Dr. 'Ali Lutfi; Dr. Isma'il Sabri 'Abdallah; Dr. Sa'id al-Najjar; Dr. 'Ali-al-Din Hilal; Dr. Ahmad al-Safti; Dr. Hazim al-Biblawi; Ahmad Ahmad Nuh; Dr. Hamid al-Sayih; Dr. Khallaf 'Abd-al-Jabir Khallaf; Tawfiq 'Abduh Isma'il; 'Abd-al-'Aziz Mustafa Ahmad; Yahya 'Abd-al-Fattah; 'Isam al-Ahmadi; Mahmud 'Abd-al-'Aziz; 'Isam Rif'at; Usamah Saraya.

General Cooperatives' Federation: Sayyid Zaki 'Abd-al-Hadi, president of the general federation; Muhammad Idris, president of the Agricultural Union; Mahmud Abu-Gharib, member; Ahmad Tandin, member; Ahmad 'Isawi, member; 'Abd-al-Rahim al-Ghul, member; 'Abd-al-Hamid Ghazi, member; Fayiz al-Tunayhi, member

Representatives of women and national societies: Dr. Farkhundah Hasan, professor at the American University of Cairo; Dr. Aminah al-Jundi, secretary general of the Higher Council for Childhood; Dr. Salwa 'Abd-al-'Aziz Fahmi, Consultative Council member; Dr. Fawziyah 'Abd-al-Sattar, professor at Cairo University's Law School; Mrs. Sakinah Fu'ad, journalist; Nazli Mu'awwad, professor at Cairo University's College of Economics; Dr. Shafiqah Nasir, professor at the Qasr al-'Ayni Medical School; Dr. Huda Razqanah, professor at the Banha Medical School; Mrs. Suhayr al-Atrabi from the media sector; Dr. Zaynab al-Sabki; Mrs. Munah Makram 'Ubayd, professor at the American University of Cairo

Artists: Mahmud Yasin; 'Adil Imam; Husayn Fahmi; Aminah Rizq

Public figures: 'Atif Sidqi, prime minister; Dr. Fathi Surur, People's Assembly speaker; Dr. Mustafa Kamal Hilmi, president of the Consultative Council; Dr. Sufi Abu-Talib, former speaker of the People's Assembly; Mr. Fikri Makram 'Ubayd; Dr. Mamduh Jabr; Counsellor 'Abd-al-Rahman Faraj Muhsin; Mr. 'Abd-al-Hamid Barakat; Dr. Ahmad Mahdi 'Abd-al-Halim

Specialized national councils: Dr. 'Abd-al-Qadir Hatim, president of the national councils; Dr. Sulayman Hazin; Dr. Ibrahim Badran; Dr. Ahmad Muharram; Dr. Abu-Salih al-Alfi; Shaykh Ibrahim al-Dasuqi

University students' unions: Mr. Muhammad 'Ali Ahmad, president of the Asyut University Union; Salah Muhammad Hasaballah, president of the Hulwan University Union; Karam Ibrahim 'Uthman Salam, member of the 'Ayn Shams Medical School Union; Iman Ahmad al-Jundi, vice president of the Tanta University Students' Union; Ashraf Rashad 'Ali, treasurer of the al-Azhar College of Dentistry Union; Ihab 'Abd-al-Jawad from the union of Cairo University's College of Sciences

Members of Dialogue Congress Bureau Named

NC2606065394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2045 GMT 25 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 25 Jun (MENA)—Dr. Mustafa Khalil, general moderator of the National Dialogue General Congress, has announced the formation of the General Congress' Bureau under his chairmanship. The bureau consists of Dr. Yusuf Wali for the National Democratic Party, Engineer Ibrahim Shukri for the Labor Party, Khalid Muhyi-al-Din for the National Progressive Unionist Grouping Party, and Mustafa Kamil Murad for the Liberal Party.

The three committee moderators—Dr. Ahmad Fathi Surur, Dr. Mustafa Kamal Hilmi, and Dr. Hamid al-Sayih—also joined the bureau.

Source Denies 'Terrorist' Injured in Suhaj

NC2706210994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2000 GMT 27 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 27 Jun (MENA)—A ranking security source denied a report aired by a foreign radio today, which said a terrorist was injured in a clash with security forces in Suhaj. The source described the report as groundless and totally untrue.

Brotherhood, SLP Officials Discuss Alliance

NC2406110394 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 15 Jun 94 p 7

[Interviews with Muslim Brotherhood spokesman Ma'mun al-Hudaybi and Hilmi Murad, deputy leader of the Socialist Labor Party [SLP], answering identical sets of questions by correspondent Muhammad Raghib, published in AL-WAFD's "Political Week" section; places and dates of interviews not given]

[Text] [Raghib] You joined the SLP in raising the slogan "Islam is the solution" during the 1987 People's Assembly election campaign. Was this an ideological or merely political alliance?

[Al-Hudaybi] We first raised the slogan "Islam is the solution" during the 1984 election, which some Muslim Brotherhood members contested. Since then we have committed ourselves to this slogan as a concise declaration of the basic principle or ideology in which we believe. As for the alliance involving the Brotherhood, the SLP, and the Liberal Party in the 1987 election, we all raised the same slogan and formulated a platform of 10 basic points, which were more elaborately explained in leaflets later. The SLP, the Liberal Party, and the Brotherhood contested the election as a triple alliance and on the basis of the platform just mentioned. We raised the slogan "Islam is the solution." From this you can see that our alliance with the SLP was both ideological and political. In our Islamic faith there is no distinction between religion and politics. Islam is both a religion and a state.

[Raghib] Does the SLP-Muslim Brotherhood alliance still exist or has it been dissolved?

[Al-Hudaybi] The Brotherhood is still allied with the SLP. We are working, coordinating, and consulting with them. Brotherhood members feel that the SLP's commitment to the alliance continues. We welcome the alliance because it is actually a form of dialogue, consultation, and exchange of views over various political, economic, and social issues of interest to the public. The dialogue depends on circumstances and the needs of the parties. It is not limited to specific dates or times.

[Raghib] A Brotherhood faction is reportedly operating within the SLP rank and file. How true is this?

[Al-Hudaybi] This is a point we always stress; the Brotherhood has its own independent organization and has never joined the organizations of other political parties except in extraordinary circumstances. I will not speak of these now. At the same time the SLP has its own structures and organizations as a political party. It is not my business to discuss them here. I have already explained that we and the SLP have an alliance that we seek to preserve. We are joined under one banner—"Islam is the solution."

[Raghib] The society "Young Egypt," which operated before the [1952] revolution and later became the SLP, had relations with the Brotherhood, which involved agreements and disagreements. What are the parameters of the SLP and the Brotherhood relationship today?

[Al-Hudaybi] "Young Egypt's" relations with the Brotherhood in those days fluctuated between extreme closeness and extreme disagreement. This issue belongs to history. Current political, economic, and social conditions are very different. This change in circumstances has been fundamental and many of the SLP and our own positions have changed. The saying has it that everything happens in its own good time.

[Raghib] A few months ago there was an uproar in connection with the SLP's plan to represent the Brotherhood at the National Dialogue Congress. What was the result?

[Al-Hudaybi] The SLP never intended to represent the Brotherhood or speak on its behalf at the National Dialogue Congress. SLP leader Ibrahim Shukri made this clear during an interview with the newspaper AL-AHRAM. He said: "The SLP will never represent the Brotherhood. The Brotherhood has the right to have its own representatives."

The Brotherhood has its own status and can represent itself anywhere anytime. But we welcome any consultations or meetings with the SLP. I must make it clear that it is out of the question for the SLP to represent the Brotherhood at the National Dialogue Congress or any other forum.

[Raghib] Will there be some form of coordination or alliance between the SLP and the Brotherhood in the next parliamentary election?

[Al-Hudaybi] No one knows what form the next election will take. We have heard rumors that it will be held in accordance with the list system. Then we heard denials. We also heard that it would adopt a mixed list-and-independent-candidate system. When the election draws near things will become clearer. Then the existing security, political, and economic conditions can be evaluated. We can decide then whether we want to coordinate or forge an alliance with the SLP or do something else. Likewise the SLP can decide on these issues. It is difficult for Brotherhood and SLP leaders to make decisions on this affair right now.

[Raghib] You joined the Muslim Brotherhood in raising the slogan "Islam is the solution" during the 1987 People's Assembly election campaign. Was this an ideological or merely political alliance?

[Murad] Our alliance with the Brotherhood is merely political and its purpose was to participate jointly in the election battle. But this alliance continued—it still does—even after joint participation in the election to the People's Assembly ended. This does not mean the programs of the SLP and the Brotherhood are identical. The alliance is based on specific published points but the detailed programs of the SLP and the Brotherhood are not identical. Otherwise the agreement would had been a merger, not an alliance, which would have required a word-for-word and detailed agreement on every point of the practical application of the two sides' views and their understanding of the application of Islamic teaching in every aspect of life. We cannot say this exists or has been achieved. Thus it becomes clear that our alliance with the Brotherhood is, as I said, political, not ideological.

[Raghib] Does the SLP-Muslim Brotherhood alliance still exist or has it been dissolved?

[Murad] Nothing has happened to warrant dissolving the alliance with the Brotherhood, that is, nothing has happened to our respect for the clauses of our political accord with the Brotherhood to warrant such action. Thus the alliance between the SLP and the Brotherhood still exists, but on the basis of political cooperation only. This alliance is proceeding within the framework of the points of the declared alliance; the SLP's internal affairs are not bound by it. As long as no disagreements occur over the application of any of the agreement's clauses, as long as there are no clashes over declared public stances, and as long as the stances do not change, then the alliance as I described it still exists.

[Raghib] A Brotherhood faction is reportedly operating within the SLP rank and file. How true is this?

[Murad] This allegation is made for a malicious purpose, which seeks to claim that there is a full merger between the SLP and the Brotherhood. The truth of the issue is

that each one of us is keen to respect the independent identity of the other. As proof of this, when Brotherhood candidates won in the 1987 election on the SLP list they had the right to attend the SLP's higher committee meetings in their capacity as members of the SLP's parliamentary caucus. But they did not attend these meetings so as not to create any ambiguity. They restricted themselves to attending the parliamentary caucus meetings in the People's Assembly. We have no thought of including Brotherhood members in the SLP's organizations. Both parties have their own political views and the desire to maintain independence. No party should be responsible for the other party's behavior.

[Raghib] The society "Young Egypt," which operated before the [1952] revolution and later became the SLP, had relations with the Brotherhood, which involved agreements and disagreements. What are the parameters of the SLP and the Brotherhood relationship today?

[Murad] The SLP and the Brotherhood were bound together by the Islamic tendency and the belief that abiding by correct Islamic teaching would achieve whatever is best for Egypt and all its sects. It is the same tendency now. Occasional disagreements or the absence of an identity of views and policies do not spoil the general trend and do not justify clashes or divisions in the circumstances. The same situation existed before the revolution between "Young Egypt" and the Brotherhood and fierce clashes took place between the two as a result of their different attitudes and ideas. But such disagreements—today and in the past—are not so grave or vital as to lead to hostility and clashes.

[Raghib] A few months ago there was an uproar in connection with the SLP's plan to represent the Brotherhood at the National Dialogue Congress. What was the result?

[Murad] It was never said that the SLP could represent the "Brotherhood." It is known that both the SLP and the Brotherhood have their own independence and political identity. To avoid official objection to the Brotherhood being represented in the dialogue as a recognized group, the SLP proposed letting this trend be represented by "Muslim Brothers" in their capacity as public figures who have their own views and ideas about society. It was merely a suggestion aimed at removing the embarrassment in which the various parties found themselves. There was a misunderstanding of the aims behind the SLP's proposal. There was no indication that the SLP intended to represent the Brotherhood.

[Raghib] Will there be some form of coordination or alliance between the SLP and the Brotherhood in the next parliamentary election?

[Murad] We have not discussed this before, neither inside the SLP nor with the Brotherhood. It is too early for that. There must first be an understanding on fighting the next election before the issue of coordination and alliance is studied, because it is known that the opposition parties—with the exception of the National Progressive Unionist Grouping Party—and the Brotherhood boycotted the last election. The issue depends on ensuring the honesty of the election so that participation will be serious. If this does happen then we are open to the possibility of coordination and an alliance with the Brotherhood if they ask for it. We might also ask them to do so if we believe that coordination and an alliance with them will serve the national interest and public objectives. This applies to any other political party, not just the Brotherhood.

Muslim Brotherhood Leader Interviewed

NC2306112594 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 17 Jun 94 p 9

[Interview with Muslim Brotherhood leader Hamid Abu-al-Nasr by Sha'ban 'Abd-al-Rahman; place and date not given]

[Text] ['Abd-al-Rahman] How do you assess all the recent intense talk about the Muslim Brotherhood [MB] and are there certain reasons or background to that talk?

[Abu-al-Nasr] What has been or being said about the Brotherhood is assessed according to the parties involved. Such parties include the security authorities, government-run newspapers, the official media, and a number of people with leftist and secular inclinations, although their popular effect is less than limited. But perhaps the opportunity for publicity given to them through various media made them look different from their real weight and size and made them look more vociferous. Their status is known because their stance on Islam is known.

Speaking about security authorities, everyone recalls the interior minister's statement a few days ago that the Muslim Brothers are preachers and have nothing to do with terrorism. But shortly afterward he said that the Muslim Brothers support terrorism. This statement came after the president's interview with the German newspaper DER SPIEGEL, in which he said that the Muslim Brothers were behind terrorism, which was followed with a propaganda campaign by the government-run newspapers depicting the Muslim Brothers as a terrorist group that supports terrorism and forms clandestine organizations. The campaign also indicated that a funds secretary of one of the trade unions had provided terrorism with a quarter of a million pounds. This was stated by a person whom the security authorities presented on a television program.

This series of events and developments suggests a great deal, especially if we remember that senior official circles stated some time ago that the Muslim brothers followed a democratic course in the country's political activity.

There have been varying explanations for the situation. Some suggested that this was a campaign to stem the Islamic upsurge by restricting the preachers and barring

them from preaching for the cause of Almighty God by giving advice, barring them from seeking unity based on love and brotherhood and from reviving the spirit in a religious context and raising it on pride, dignity, and sacrifice. Other explanations suggested that the official stand escalated after the crisis that emerged between the Lawyers Association [LA] and the state authorities following the death of lawyer 'Abd-al-Harith Madani and that this situation has spread to cover all the trade unions. Others have another explanation. They say that with the preparation for the [national] dialogue and the exclusion of the Muslim Brothers, the situation required a justification for this exclusion and for preparing the way to rally the participants in the dialogue against the Islamic trend.

Other explanations cite fears and expectations by officials based on the vision of some circles, saying that the Muslim Brothers are seeking to take power and that they are close to this goal and hence a measure of confrontation is necessary. Other explanations refer to the Gaza-Jericho Accord and the Muslim Brothers' stand on it. Meanwhile, some opposition newspapers reported that there had been U.S. memoranda warning against the Islamic upsurge and saying that the Muslim Brothers were close to taking power.

Still others said that the People's Assembly elections are approaching and it is necessary to prevent the continuation of the alliance among the Muslim Brothers and to prevent this alliance from taking part in these elections.

Despite all this, the Muslim Brothers stress two points. First, they are preachers and not seekers of power and all they aim for is God's retribution. Second, their stands on various issues are based on principles derived from God's Book and His Prophet's traditions, and that there is no vagary, whim, or private interest behind defining a view or stance.

['Abd-al-Rahman] Relations between the government and the Brotherhood in the past were calm. So what made them erupt in this way? Could the Lawyers Association [LA] incidents be the sole cause?

[Abu-al-Nasr] We have said that there are several explanations propounded by a number of parties. Though the LA incidents could have caused the eruption, as has been observed, we do not believe that they were the sole cause. We have referred to a number of explanations for the tense situation as given by some people.

['Abd-al-Rahman] Talking about the LA, what is the relationship between the Brotherhood, as a group, and the professional associations and the Brotherhood members in their councils?

[Abu-al-Nasr] The Brotherhood has no ties with the associations. The latter have their own elected councils and they include thousands of the cream of this country's sons who have the brains, intellect, knowledge, awareness, and expertise to manage the country's affairs independently. They realize and are aware of the gravity of their professional and national duties. That is how the associations are and everybody knows about their affairs and conditions. Members of these associations' councils who belong to the Islamic tendency have undertaken their responsibilities or been tasked with them through elections which they fought as citizens who have the right to do so. They are doing their job and fulfilling their duties through the associations' councils and within the associations' framework and not through the Brotherhood.

['Abd-al-Rahman] What is your response to the terms of seizure, control, and occupation of the associations which the media are using against the Brotherhood?

[Abu-al-Nasr] Control, onslaught, occupation, and illegal seizure of the associations are not concepts but expressions of impotence, bankruptcy, and evasiveness which this or that party are using. Members of the associations are depicted as being so naive as to allow opportunities for their associations to be seized or their affairs to be pounced upon while remaining oblivious to all this.

The Brotherhood has not entered the associations through the window or infiltrated them during the night. It has not changed the ballot boxes or cards or massed the security forces or the militias to suppress the associations' members and impose its own councils on them. Muslim Brothers entered as candidates in free and honest elections that were under the full supervision of the judiciary. The members voted freely and safely without rigging or pressure. They sided with those who derive their principles from God's Book and His Prophet's teachings.

I believe that it is the believers' right to ask: Why shouldn't free and fair elections be the arena for the honest confrontation? Why are the Muslim Brothers accused of illegal seizure when they have won through clean ballots and under the supervision of the unbiased judiciary? Why are the others loath to admit what is right and factual and then resort to propagating false claims? Is it not ridiculous, for example, to say that the Brotherhood has seized control of the LA even though extremely honest elections were held under judiciary supervision led by a Coptic brother counselor?

These are claims of bankruptcy or avoidance of reality but they do not deceive the noble Egyptian people and do not affect the awareness or determination of the associations' members.

['Abd-al-Rahman] So what has happened to change the situation and make President Mubarak and the government media describe you all of a sudden as being behind terrorism and say that you are managing the associations from the Brotherhood's guidance office?

[Abu-al-Nasr] Following the LA's incidents, one of the government's papers said that the Brotherhood is managing the LA from its guidance office. It presented conflicting and tenuous justifications for this claim. It wrote that the Brotherhood exploited the death of

Lawyer 'Abd-al-Harith Madani to instigate the LA incidents and create troubles that would embarrass the authorities. It also said that al-Madani belonged to terrorist organizations and therefore the Brotherhood exploited his case and this proved there was a link between the Brotherhood and terrorism. The same paper then said that the Brotherhood instigated the LA incidents in order to gain popularity that would ensure the success of its candidates in the coming elections. All these are flimsy excuses whose main objective is to accuse the Brotherhood of terrorism. But these claims are contradictory and farcical and this shows just how false they are. Yet the responsible and media quarters used them to launch a campaign against the Brotherhood and to level accusations against the Muslim Brothers.

['Abd-al-Rahman] Exactly what effect is this campaign against you having on your proselytizing, the way you proselytize, your participation in Egypt's political life, social activities, and your dealings with the government and the authorities in general?

[Abu-al-Nasr] We are preaching for God Almighty with the right words and good example. Proselytizing is the duty of every Muslim and is not an easy road or one strewn with roses. It is a call for love, brotherhood, cordiality, sympathy, work, sacrifice, pride, might, and independence. Those preaching God's word are continuing along their road and course and are seeking only God's blessing and mercy. If someone follows this course and has this as his objective, then what can impede him from doing his duty and job?

We are participating and will participate in the political life through all legitimate ways and means. We will do so tomorrow as we did in the past. We will deal with people the way God's preachers deal with everybody. We are seeking only what is good for Egypt and its people, both rulers and ruled. We pray to God to guide everybody toward working according to His Book and His Prophet's teachings and to strengthen the ties of love among Egypt's sons.

The Muslim Brothers condemn terrorism, fight terrorism, and are subjected to it when their freedoms are confiscated and their proselytizers are pursued, imprisoned, detained, or hanged.

['Abd-al-Rahman] What effects is this campaign against you having on your stand on terrorism and the mutual killings between the authorities and some Islamic trends groups?

[Abu-al-Nasr] Our stand on all forms and sources of extremism and terrorism does not change because it is a principled one. We have condemned terrorism and will continue to do so. Several years ago, we published the book "Proselytizers and Not Judges" by the late Hasan al-Hudaybi, the former Brotherhood leader, so as to correct the concepts and fight terrorism. Freedom, security, and safety are every citizen's right. It is an inherent right that God has granted to man. People's rights are inviolable. God made them and Islam has stressed them, that is their lives, properties, and honor. For God, these are more sacrosanct than the al-Qa'bah.

['Abd-al-Rahman] Is there an indirect link between this campaign against you and the Brotherhood's strong opposition to peace with the Zionist enemy? Could this campaign affect your stand?

[Abu-al-Nasr] Our stand on the Gaza-Jericho agreement is a principled one. Our stand on the usurping Jewish entity is also a principled one. Palestine is an Arab, Islamic country and its cause is an Islamic one. Those who have the right to it cannot relinquish a single inch of it or concede any part of it because this would be against the shari'ah of God Almighty who has ordered jihad to liberate the land, avenge honor, and expel the hostile intruder. The nation should be taught this through the media, culture, education, and all possible ways and means.

['Abd-al-Rahman] How do you reply to the constant attempts and propaganda to accuse the Brotherhood of terrorism or of encouraging it by referring to the events of the forties and to the Muslim Brotherhood's secret organization?

[Abu-al-Nasr] As we said, the Muslim Brothers have rejected and condemned terrorism. We believe that the false allegations claiming that they support or back it cannot negate or cover up the truth or deceive the people or grip their minds. Even though the campaigns against the Brotherhood are falling thick and thin and even though the Muslim Brothers are deprived of the right to reply because they have no access to any media channel, right is clear and God Almighty defends those who believe. The noble Egyptian people are so aware as to be able to expose the lies and aspersions.

Regarding the allegations of secret organizations, the Muslim Brothers have no secret organizations and do not resort to secrecy. The Brotherhood had its own system in the forties due to special circumstances, namely the circumstances of colonialism which was in control of the country at the time in addition to the royal palace's treachery. Therefore, there was this special system in order to confront colonialism and to liberate the land. The Muslim Brotherhood's actions and battles in Palestine and the Suez Canal were great and are recorded by history. This special system ended when the English evacuated Egypt and the Muslim Brothers entered prisons and detention camps in the mid-fifties.

['Abd-al-Rahman] What do you say to President Mubarak?

[Abu-al-Nasr] I tell President Mubarak and all the Arab leaders this: The nation needs the unity of your ranks. Act to unite its ranks. Applying God's shari'ah is a trust in your hands and a duty and everyone will be accounted for it before God Almighty. Mobilize the resources and capabilities to apply it. Freedom and security are inherent rights for all the people. Provide them for everyone.

Talks With IMF Reportedly Deadlocked

NC2606081894 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 21 Jun 94 p 7

[Report by 'Abd-al-Rahman Isma'il]

[Text] The negotiations between the government and the IMF have reached a dead end. The IMF insists that the government devalue the Egyptian pound and offer a large number of public sector companies for sale in exchange for its recommending that one-third of Egypt's debts be waived; that is, $4 billion, which are scheduled to be forgiven this month under the agreement signed between the government and the IMF in the summer of 1991.

The talks held last week between government officials and a team from the World Bank were fraught with acute differences, as each side stuck to its position. The government asked the World Bank team to postpone the devaluation of the pound to a later stage and promised in return to accelerate the privatization process and sell a considerable number of public sector companies in the coming months.

Zafin Burmister [name as transliterated], World Bank representative in Cairo, has stated at a ceremony marking the bank's 50th anniversary that the government has pledged to the bank to privatize more than 80 public companies in the coming months. He added that the government is keen on fully implementing the program signed with the bank and the IMF to have a third of its debts forgiven.

Mahmud 'Abd-al-'Aziz, chairman of the Banks' Union, has stated that banks will stop accepting any new deposits as a result of the increase in the deposits they now hold. He added: Unless the government hastens to issue long-term bonds enabling the banks to invest the accumulating funds in their possession, the banks will find themselves compelled to stop accepting new deposits. Speaking to journalists during a seminar on Arab banking on Sunday [19 June], 'Abd-al-'Aziz explained that the banks will not accept money it cannot invest. The increase in deposits held by the banks, he added, will lead to a drop in the interest rates.

Libya

Mubarak Holds Extended Talks With al-Qadhdhafi

Focus of Talks Detailed

LD2706214794 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 27 Jun 94

[Excerpts] Another round of extended talks was held this morning between the brother leader of the revolution and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. [passage omitted]

JANA's correspondent in Sirte has reported that all aspects of bilateral cooperation between the two fraternal countries as well as other Arab and international topics of mutual interests were reviewed at this round of talks.

He added that the meeting also dealt with the situation in Yemen and the Egypt's role, which ought to protect Yemeni unity and face up to the colonialist schemes aimed at creating schism and weakening the Arab nation, beginning with Yemen and followed by Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Syria, and the rest of Arab countries. In this respect, Egypt's leading role in the Arab homeland and in the world, given Egypt's weight, civilization, and huge sacrifices for Yemen in the sixties, was stressed.

As for Egypt's pan-Arab role, it was reiterated that the Israeli schemes were aiming at harming Egypt, because the program of the Zionist movement was aimed at establishing the so-called state of Israel from the Nile to the Euphrates.

As far as the Lockerbie problem was concerned, it was asserted that concocting such a problem was aimed at keeping Egypt busy with secondary issues and distracting it from playing its pan-Arab role.

Further on al-Qadhdhafi-Mubarak Talks

LD2706135594 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 27 Jun 94

[Excerpts] An extended round of talks was held today between the brother leader of the revolution [al-Qadhdhafi] and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. The meeting was attended by brothers secretary for the General People's Committee, the secretary for the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation, and the ministerial delegation accompanying President Mubarak.

The talks dealt with bilateral cooperation between the two brotherly countries, and Arab and international issues of mutual interest. [passage omitted]

Egyptian President Husni Mubarak later left Surt today at the end of this visit to the Great Jamahiriyah. The brother leader of the revolution was at the head of those saying farewell to President Husni Mubarak at Khalij Surt's civilian airport. [passage omitted]

President Mubarak made a statement to JANA's correspondent before departure. He said: My visits to the Great Jamahiriyah are continuous and have a positive effect on the Arab people in Egypt and Libya. Our meeting as brothers gives us the opportunity to exchange views in Arab, international, and bilateral issues.

He indicated that all these topics were discussed during the meeting.

Concerning the Great Jamahiriyah's absence from a meeting of Mediterranean basin countries due to be held in Cairo next week, President Husni Mubarak said that a

restricted preparatory committee meeting will be held, and not all Mediterranean basin countries will participate. It will prepare a conference, draw up an agenda, and specify topics for discussion and when and who will take part.

Egyptian Foreign Ministry Hails Visit

LD2706153894 Tripoli JANA in English 1427 GMT 27 Jun 94

[Text] Tripoli, Al Sayf [June] 27 JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Naji al-Ghatrayfi, the official spokesperson for the Egyptian Foreign Ministry described President Husni Mubarak's visit to the Great Jamahiriya demonstrated the depth of the relationship between the leader of the revolution and the Egyptian president. He said that the presence of President Husni Mubarak on the land of the Great Jamahiriyah at this time emphasises Egypt's solidarity with the great Jamahiriyah and at the same time was a [words indistinct] complete solidarity with the Libyan people against the background of the unjust measures which the Great Jamahiriyah is being subjected to through the so called Lockerbie crisis.

In a statement to the JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY's correspondent in Cairo, the spokesperson said that this visit reflects the care which the two countries sare giving to the process of co-ordination and consultation between them in the sphere of common interests in the Arab and international arena.

He added that Libyan-Egyptian relations were blossoming uninterruptedly and he applauded the unique relationship between President Husni Mubarak of Egypt and his brother, Col. Mu'ammar Al-Qadhdhafi saying that their talks were not limited to simply the relationship between the two countries but also to the current Arab situation and the strengthening of joint Arab action for the benfit of the Great Jamahiriyah and Egypt but also for the entire Arab nation. [sentence as received]

Yemen's Salih Briefs al-Qadhdhafi on Situation

LD2706211494 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 27 Jun 94

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution [Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi] had a telephone conversation today with Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, who briefed him on the situation in Yemen and told him of his acceptance of the cease-fire and his readiness to negotiate with the Yemeni Socialist Party.

Talks Held With Envoys of Mali, Burkina, Niger

LD2306135894 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Text] The secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation received this morning Ahmad Bakomo, ambassador of the Republic of Mali, Assimi Alkaidi [Toure], ambassador of the Republic of Niger, and Poli Porcpie [as heard], ambassador of Burkina Faso to the Great Jamahiriyah.

The two sides examined and reviewed the results of the talks which the leader of the revolution held with the presidents of Mali, Niger, and Burkina Faso during their recent visits to the Great Jamahiriyah. The meetings also dealt with aspects of bilateral cooperation between the Great Jamahiriyah and these countries and ways to bolster them so as to serve mutual interests and the interests of these African states and reaffirm their links and cooperation with the Arab Maghreb Union.

Al-Qadhdhafi Comments on Lockerbie, al-Kikhya

NC2706135994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1335 GMT 27 Jun 94

[Excerpt] Sirte, 27 June (MENA)—[passage omitted] Al-Qadhdhafi said that the recent proposal adopted by the Arab League on the Lockerbie case could be the only solution for this crisis. He added that this proposal, which "is convincing and satisfactory for all the parties," will be submitted to the Security Council by the Arab group, the nonaligned countries, and the African states and could be accepted because it is not a Libyan one.

In his remarks on developments in the Lockerbie case, Col. al-Qadhdhafi said that there are now strong suspicions that Libya is not the sole defendant in this case but that there are several parties, especially after the confessions of Yusuf Sha'ban, who is being tried before a Lebanese court.

On tightening the sanctions imposed on Libya, he stressed that his country is ready to confront any situation. But he expressed his belief that the European countries will be the only losers in this.

On his meeting with the wife of Mansur al-Kikhya [Libyan dissident who disappeared while in Egypt], al-Qadhdhafi said: We met and I stressed to her that the security organs in Egypt and Libya are fully cooperating to uncover the truth. He pointed a finger of accusation at the U.S. intelligence and its Libyan agents.

Al-Baz on Possible Solution to Lockerbie Issue

NC2706140694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1350 GMT 27 Jun 94

[Text] Sirte, 27 Jun (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, expressed his belief that a solution could be reached on the Lockerbie problem between Libya and the Western countries.

In a statement he made before leaving Sirte with the delegation accompanying President Husni Mubarak, al-Baz said that a number of proposals on this issue were discussed during the meetings held by the Egyptian and

Libyan sides. He stressed that a solution that upholds the two sides' sovereignty can be reached.

He added that it was agreed to have the higher Egyptian-Libyan committee chaired by the two countries' prime ministers meet in Cairo during the first week of August and its meeting will be preceded by a meeting of the preparatory committee.

UK Seen as 'First Loser' If Sanctions Escalate

PM2806082094 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 25 Jun 94 p4

[Unattributed report: "Libya: Britain Would Be the First Loser If Sanctions Are Escalated"]

[Text] Cairo, AL-HAYAH—A highly placed Libyan diplomatic source in Cairo has warned British officials against continuing to reject the Arab and Libyan proposals for the settlement of the Lockerbie crisis. He said: "Britain would be the first loser if the sanctions against Libya were escalated to include Libya's oil exports. [no closing quotemarks as published] He pointed out that 7,000 Britons worked in the Libyan oil sector and that the trade balance between the two countries was $1.5 billion in Britain's favor. In a statement to AL-HAYAH yesterday, the source criticized what he described as "the West's intransigence against the Arab League's proposal calling for the implementation of international legitimacy by having the two Libyan suspects in the Lockerbie case stand trial before a Scottish court at the headquarters of the International Court of Justice." He added: "That rejection is not only a stand against Libya but also a slap to all the Arab states." He said that if the Arab League proposal was rejected and the Western states concerned with the crisis insisted on escalating it, then the Arab states should not comply with the economic sanctions imposed on his country since April 1992 under Security Council Resolution 748, and should resume flights between the Arab states and Libya. He said that "if the Arab states did that, they would command world respect. Not all the Security Council resolutions are always in their favor. In fact, the majority of these resolutions are applied by some states and ignored by others."

Meanwhile, Ambassador 'Adnan 'Imran, the Arab League's assistant secretary general for political affairs, has stated that the Arab League's proposal for the settlement of the Lockerbie crisis placed the ball in the West's court. He said that the proposal took into consideration international legitimacy and Libya's sovereignty at the same time, and that the Western states should respond to the Arab proposal which is also supported by the Organization of African Unity and the Nonaligned Movement.

In a statement to AL-HAYAH, 'Imran said that Libya is serious in its efforts to close the Lockerbie file, adding that Western rejection raised some questions about this issue. He said: "If the Western states have sufficient evidence to support the charges then why do they not agree to the trial of the suspects at the headquarters of the International Court of Justice?"

Arab League Secretary General 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has sent new messages to the foreign ministers of the United States, France, and Britain stressing that agreement to the trial of the Libyan suspects in the Hague "would spare the region unnecessary dangers. A settlement of this issue would increase confidence in the new world order."

Al-Qadhdhafi Speaks to Bosnian Children

LD2506181094 Tripoli JANA in English 1622 GMT 25 Jun 94

[Excerpt] Tripoli, Al Sayf [June] 25, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution visited the residence of the children of Bosnia-Herzegovina being hosted by the Great Jamahiriyah as a result of a humanitarian gesture by the leader to lessen the losses suffered due to the fighting between warring factions in the former Yugoslavia. The visit of the leader of the revolution came as the children were (?soon) to leave the Great Jamahiryah upon the request of the Bosnian Government which confirmed that the areas the children will return to have become safe areas. During the visit, the leader of the revolution met with these children in an encounter which showed the human interest extended by the leader to them and their well being and provision of all the necessary resources and comfort in the Great Jamahiryah.

On this occasion, the leader of the revolution made the following speech:

"Firstly, we are pleased that you are returning to your families who are now in safe areas. But we are sad to see you go for you are our children [words indistinct] too you were in your home and with your fathers and mothers who are Libyans. Now you have mothers and fathers both in Libya and Bosnia. Your home is Bosnia and Libya. Also we are happy at your return to your families. We are sad at the plight suffered by the Muslim people in Bosnia-Herzegovina. This is a hard lesson not only for the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina but to the international conscience. A bitter lesson for all mankind. But this bitterness leads us for further struggle against religious and racial discrimination. This was responsible for this tragedy hence we must fight for the eliminaion of the enemies of mankind. We fight against those who enjoy the suffering of children. The killing of fathers and mothers of these children constitutes a horrific crime and so was the separation of a little child from his mother and father in Europe which fooled us with the its [as received] claim of being civilized while it was without any conscience. The whole peaceful population of Yugoslavia was subjected to an ugly crime. This people was united and Yugoslavs were living next to each regardless of their religion. Muslims were living with Christians. It was one people living in one country. However, criminal power and influence seekers did not hesistate to torture you and render you homeless. What is the value of any

new action if only achieved on the dead bodies of these children? What is the worth of any objective if achieved only at the expense of these children and as a result of torturing them? You were not the only victims of torture. Human conscience was tortured and all honourable peoples in the world felt your pain. You have provided a history lesson. You showed the consequences of war and religious discrimination. You have rendered a service to mankind for by being separated from your parents and the torture you endured you showed that war is a harmful and renounced act and that religious and racial discrimination is a despicable [word indistinct]. We are sad at your leaving and God willing, we will meet with you when you are older and stronger when you would have forgotten this difficult period. We hope to see you when you are happier." [passage omitted]

Sudan

Abu-Salih Welcomes 'Serious Dialogue' With U.S.

PM2706091894 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 24 Jun 94 p 6

[Interview with Foreign Minister Dr. Husayn Abu-Salih by unidentified correspondent in Tunis; date not given]

[Text] [AL-HAYAH] Do you expect any progress in achieving a peaceful solution to the southern Sudan problem?

[Abu-Salih] The conflict in the south would not have continued had it not been for the aid the rebel movement is receiving. It could not have gone on fighting all this time had it not been for foreign aid and support in terms of armament, training, and food.

In the days of (former Ethiopian President) Mengistu Haile Mariam it used to obtain the aid from Eastern Europe and the Soviet bloc, which set up camps for it. The movement was expected to weaken and disappear following Mengistu's collapse, but the rebellion continued as a result of the change in the movement's and its supporters' direction.

This issue and the accusations raised about it reflect a lot of bias and distortion of the real picture of what is happening in Sudan.

I believe that the issue was tackled in various periods in accordance with the wish of Sudan—people, government, and public organizations—since 1985 to secure a peaceful and rational solution to the problem through dialogue.

But due to the rebel movement's adherence to its position and the support it received from some forces, it is still an obstacle to a peaceful solution—which has caused us to hold a gun in one hand and an olive branch in the other. The Armed Forces should play their role not in order to impose a military solution, but to curb and weaken the movement so that it will submit and come to the negotiating table.

At one point there was bias with regard to Sudan because of inaccurate information, like describing what is happening as a war launched by the Arab north against non-Arab southerners, or by Muslims against Christians, or as forcible Islamization of southern Sudan. All these accusations are absolutely untrue. We organized a conference which irrefutably proved that the problem is political. It analyzed its roots and drew up a solution to it.

The issue is to produce an equation that achieves fair power-sharing so that no party, group, or entity will be deprived of political participation. Power can be shared through decentralization and a federal system, namely by dividing the country into small units to achieve real distribution of power and the various natural resources and thus move toward balanced development.

In this way religion can have a place and people can live equally without the majority imposing their view on the minority. This is why we agreed on the need to describe Sudan as a miniature Africa. It is characterized by diversity and unified history at the same time. This is why we decided not to focus on using phrases, but instead, define what we want, namely a multiethnic, multicultural, multireligious, and multilingual Sudan. Identity should be "Sudanese." Citizenship be based on participation. These ideas can form the foundation of a just peaceful solution. But the reason behind this intransigence is that the movement is a hostage of foreign forces that do not want these principles to be complied with.

[AL-HAYAH] From where does Colonel John Garang's movement get the foreign aid?

[Abu-Salih] The aid comes through the Sudanese-Ugandan border, and the arms are smuggled through a small strip a few kilometers wide. Contacts are being made with the Ugandan Government so that the two parties will undertake not to harm one another or provide facilities to smuggle arms across the border. Such commitment shortens the road to peace.

[AL-HAYAH] What did the U.S. envoy convey to the Sudanese Government, and what was the aim of her recent visit to Khartoum?

[Abu-Salih] We note that the West in general was biased with regard to Sudan, although the present Sudanese Government has never said anything about boycotting or being hostile toward the West or sought such a thing. Its view has been that there should be cooperation with the West, especially in the spheres of development, science, technology, and other sectors. However, what we reject is that there should be a kind of superiority, domination, and interference in Sudan's internal affairs. The West did at one point adopt tough positions on the basis of erroneous information about Sudan. Perhaps

that encouraged the rejection of dialogue with the Sudanese Government or encouraged working to topple it.

[AL-HAYAH] Who conveyed the wrong picture about Sudan?

[Abu-Salih] First, Britain did a great deal to spread erroneous ideas and false rumors to distort Sudan's image; it conveyed to the United States untrue pictures of the situation in the country. This is why the dialogue with the Americans is aimed at conveying a real picture about Sudan with regard to its willingness to cooperate with other countries.

[AL-HAYAH] When did the dialogue begin?

[Abu-Salih] The dialogue stage began after the visit by Madeleine Albright, U.S. permanent representative to the United Nations, to Khartoum this year. It means that there is willingness to listen and there are attentive ears. The mere fact of engaging in a serious dialogue makes us optimistic about the possibility of reaching a model for cooperation with a major state like the United States.

[AL-HAYAH] Do you expect this understanding to influence Sudan's position on the Middle East peace process?

[Abu-Salih] The United States and the West exerted pressures on Sudan because of its position on the peace process. They thought we were going to lead Arab and Islamic opposition and all the parties opposed to the process, which is why we were put on the terrorism list.

But Ambassador Albright came out with a good impression regarding this question after its recent visit to Sudan. She pointed to her belief that Sudan shelters and sponsors terrorists, but we explained to her that these accusations are absolutely untrue. And we stressed the need for further talks, contacts, and visits.

The Sudanese people are very remote from terrorism, in terms of their nature and behavior. They refuse to harm others. The Americans had thought that there were camps in Sudan to train foreigners and send them to some states to undermine stability there, but the camps in the country are only used to train Popular Defense men who support the the Sudanese Army in its task in the south. We challenge anyone to prove that a single foreigner has been trained in Sudan; ON the contrary, we are harmed by others' interference in our affairs.

[AL-HAYAH] Perhaps your special relationship with Iran provoked these accusations.

[Abu-Salih] The United States and other Western states talk about Sudan as though it is controlled by Iran or is a base for Iran in the region. Our relations with Iran are like our relations with any Western state. There is nothing more between us and it. In fact maybe the level of our relations with Iran is lower than the level of our relations with some Western states. Ambassador Albright's visit came to clarify this matter, especially as it coincided with our appeal to some neighboring states like Kenya, Uganda, and Ethiopia to sponsor the peace process in the south.

We are in the process of preparing a document regarding participation in power and dialogue so as to ensure the success of the process. We have also asked the Americans to offer us technical assistance regarding the federal system so as to provide us with a plan that would help us to achieve the formula we are seeking for Sudan, namely a multiethnic, multilingual, and multireligious Sudan, provided the identity is "Sudanese."

Envoy to Sweden Denies Intention To Resign

LD2706180794 Stockholm Radio Sweden in English 1615 GMT 27 Jun 94

[Text] The Sudanese ambassador to Stockholm has disputed claims that he has resigned and asked for political asylum in Sweden. Sources in the Sudanese capital claimed over the weekend that Mohammad Zein left his post after the Sudanese Government recalled him to Khartoum, but the ambassador said today he had no intention of resigning. Sudanese sources said Mr. Zein had held office under the former government of Sadeq al-Mahdi, who was arrested last week on conspiracy charges.

Egypt Reportedly Denies Entry to Nationals

EA2706174094 Nairobi KNA in English 0915 GMT 27 Jun 94

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 27 June (KNA/PANA)—Egypt has released 89 Sudanese nationals in the northern town of Aswan, after denying them entry and detaining them, state-run television of Omdurman reported late Saturday [25 June]. It reported that the Sudanese were held for seven hours. The travellers, mostly middle-aged men, told the television that they were held in a dining hall in a ferry named Saq al-Naam somewhere between Aswan and Wadi Halfa. They were denied drinking water and the opportunity to pray. The detainees said they were packed in a hot room without air-conditioning, while told by an Egyptian official that they would be allowed to continue to Cairo. Detainees said they were guarded by regular armed Egyptian troops during their interrogations and that they were returned back to Sudan without any explanation.

Only old men and women were allowed to proceed to Cairo but all able-bodied and young men were returned to Sudan. The Sudanese travellers, who appeared frustrated and upset, told the Sudan television that their luggage and money had been stolen while they were in detention.

Commenting, Sudanese television said that it was clear that the Egyptian authorities had adopted the measure as a precaution against any infiltration of alleged Islamic fundamentalists. [passage omitted]

Draft Budget Bill Passes in Second Reading

EA2606131194 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 24 Jun 94

[Text] The Transitional National Assembly [TNA] yesterday approved the draft general budget for fiscal year 1994-95 in its second reading.

Finance Minister Abdullah Hasan Ahmad, in his commentary on the members' deliberations on the budget's general features, stressed that the budget achieved all national aims and aspirations in revenue and expenditure, as well as dealing with the challenge for self-sufficiency. He added that it achieved total financing for the agricultural sector, as well as supporting the federal system and the poorer strata of society.

The finance minister pointed out that the budget contained clauses meant to achieve peace and development, and that the government was committed to spending in accordance with its real revenue earnings, explaining that a clear improvement had occurred in revenue. He added that the current budget [words indistinct] deficit so as to confront inflation.

The finance minister, in his commentary on the budget debate, presented statistics that dealt with an increase in wage averages during the 1990-94 period, which contributed toward coping with market inflation. He explained that the government provided the different states of the country with strategic grain stocks. The finance minister described the effects of foreign trade, border trade, and preferential trade on the national economy as positive.

Mr. Abdullah Hasan Ahmad discussed subsidies, stating that the government was subsidizing bread for those who were unable to afford it. It had also earmarked further resources for subsidizing flour, sugar, petrol, and medicine.

Western Sahara

Polisario Shows 'Positive Response' to Morocco Talks

France Said Ready to Host Talks

LD2606113994 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 26 Jun 94

[Text] The Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro] Front today showed positive response to the proposal submitted by France about its readiness to host direct talks between the Polisario Front and Morocco.

French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe had yesterday expressed in an interview with JEUNE AFRIQUE his country's readiness to host these direct talks.

Ministry Statement on French Offer

LD2706100694 (Clandestine) National Radio of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic in Arabic 2100 GMT 26 Jun 94

[Text] Following the French foreign minister's statement affirming France's readiness to host direct talks between the Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro [Polisario] and Morocco, the Information Ministry of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic issued the following statement:

The Polisario Front [word indistinct] France's desire to host direct talks between the Front and the Kingdom of Morocco, which was expressed by Foreign Minister Alain Juppe to JEUNE AFRIQUE weekly this week.

The statement added that the Front considers France to be neutral, unbiased, and interested in the stability of the Arab Maghreb region. It could therefore contribute to a rapprochement between the two parties to the conflict in the Western Sahara (?by providing a just basis for a resolution of the conflict within the framework of the UN peace plan).

The statement said the Polisario Front remains [word indistinct] at this critical time (?in view of) the UN peace plan and Morocco's obstacles. However, the path of direct talks would give the two conflicting parties a chance to overcome their differences and help attain security and stability in the region.

GCC Foreign Ministers Meet on Peace Preparation

LD2506185594 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1720 GMT 25 Jun 94

[Text] Riyad, 25 Jun—A meeting of representatives of foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] in Riyadh today to prepare for the next meeting of the international steering committee set up to work in tandem with the Israeli-Arab peace talks.

The committee includes members of a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation; and representatives of Israel, Saudi Arabia—representing the GCC states—Tunisia, Egypt, Canada, Japan, and the European Union, in addition to representatives of Russia and the United States as co-sponsors of the peace process.

Diplomatic sources in Riyadh told KUNA that the Gulf officials will discuss the statement of principles to be submitted to the steering committee, which defines the agenda of talks on arms control in the Middle East and regional security in the future.

The sources added that the committee, which oversees the work of other committees emanates from the multilateral talks, will also discuss the resolutions issued by the arms control committee at the end of its meeting held in Qatar last April.

At its last meeting, the international steering committee discussed the results of meetings of the working groups set up in Moscow in January 1993. The groups dealt with issues of arms control, refugees, economic cooperation, water resources, and environment.

Saudi Minister Rejects Attacks Over GCC Yemen Stance

LD2506093894 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0804 GMT 25 Jun 94

[Text] Kuwait, 25 Jun—In a press statement published here today, Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir Al Sabah, first deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, stressed the rejection of any threats or accusations made against the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] because of support for the secessionist Yemeni state, or that it supported one side at the expense of the other.

In a statement to the newspaper AL-ANBA, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad expressed regret over the Yemeni president's attack on GCC states because of the GCC's statement in which it supported the UN Security Council resolution, saying that this attack was a hard to forgive mistake.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad affirmed that all Damascus Declaration states were awaiting the current international move aimed at resolving the Yemeni crisis and the outcome of the efforts of the UN envoy regarding this crisis. He said that these states were also awaiting the results the envoy had achieved, which he would present to the UN secretary general and the Security Council.

In light of these results, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad added that developments and their required resolutions could be discussed during the meeting of the Damascus Declaration's foreign ministers to be held in Kuwait on 27 June.

Kuwait

Al-Bid Telephones Amir, Discusses Peace Moves

LD2706152594 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 27 Jun 94

[Text] Kuwait, 27 Jun—The State of Kuwait has reiterated its adherence to principles and resolutions issued by the UN Security Council and the last Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] ministerial meeting on the situation in Yemen. It also said that it will not reserve any energy in its efforts toward stopping the shedding of innocent blood in Yemen within the framework of the resolutions issued on the Yemeni crisis and the calls for a peaceful settlement.

This was said in a telephone call made to the amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, by 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party.

Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad stressed Kuwait's adherence to the resolutions issued by the GCC ministerial meeting, which was held recently in the Saudi Arabian town of Abha, and UN Security Council Resolution No. 924 which calls for an immediate cease-fire [words indistinct] to impose political solutions by the use of military force.

The amir told the Yemeni Socialist Party secretary general that he will continue efforts to consult with GCC leaders in order to curb the spilling of innocent blood in line with resolutions made on the Yemeni crisis, and in line with calls made by a number of sisterly and friendly countries in order to achieve security and stability throughout the area.

Cabinet Ministers Debate Compensation for Gulf War

LD2606163894 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1511 GMT 26 Jun 94

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 26 Jun—The Kuwaiti ministerial council held its weekly meeting today under the chairmanship of Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister, and discussed a number of important issues.

'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dakhil, minister of state for cabinet affairs and minister of planning, said that the council issued a resolution appointing the Ministry of Finance and the General Commission for Compensations to prepare a system of rules and procedures according to which compensation would be paid for the damage and losses resulting from the Iraqi aggression against the State of Kuwait, in keeping with UN resolutions regarding the payment of the first installment of compensation.

He added that the council entrusted the compensation commission with the disbursement of compensation and

with following up with the UN committee with regard to measures required to pay those Kuwaitis and others who suffered damage. [passage omitted]

Chamber of Commerce Denies Members Visited Israel

JN2406160994 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 21 Jun 94 pp 1, 21

[Report by Fahd al-'Arrak]

[Text] Informed sources of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry have denied that any of its members recently paid a working visit to Israel along with a delegation of Gulf businessmen.

These sources told AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM that what has been published recently about a visit by businessmen from the Gulf Cooperation Council to Tel Aviv last week may be correct, but not a single Kuwaiti businessman participated in this visit.

It is noteworthy that the board chairman of the Egyptian Airlines Company, ZAS [name as published], has recently stated that his company had carried businessmen from the Gulf states to Tel Aviv to discuss spheres of cooperation and joint opportunities in light of peace prospects in the region.

UK's Heseltine Holds Briefing on Purpose of Visit

LD2706211094 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1950 GMT 27 Jun 94

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 27 June (KUNA)—Michael Heseltine, British president of the Board of Trade, said here today that he did not discuss "any new trade deals" for British companies in Kuwait as part of a privatization drive.

Heseltine told a news conference here today that his visit was confined to strengthening bilateral ties between the two countries and to present Britain's privatization experience and its success so that Kuwait could benefit from it.

He expressed his hope that British companies would be given more investment opportunities in Kuwait, stressing that the final decision belonged to the Kuwaiti Government. [passage omitted]

Belgian Foreign Minister Arrives, Holds Talks

LD2706184494 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 27 Jun 94

[Excerpt] Willy Claes, Belgian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, arrived this afternoon in Kuwait on a two-day official visit.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, a number of Foreign Ministry officials, and the Belgian ambassador to Kuwait met the visiting minister.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir held talks this afternoon with Willy Claes on bilateral ties and the latest developments in the international and Arab spheres. [passage omitted]

Oman

Yemeni Official Arrives With Message From Salih

JN2506141694 Muscat Radio Oman Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 25 Jun 94

[Text] His Excellency 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, Presidential Council member and envoy of His Excellency Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, arrived in the country this afternoon on a two-day visit to the sultanate.

In a statement to the Omani News Agency upon arrival, his excellency said he is carrying a message to His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id from his Excellency President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih dealing with the current situation in Yemen and bilateral relations. He said he will listen to the views of his majesty the sultan on the current situation and developments in the regional, Arab, and international arenas in light of the wisdom and awareness of his majesty, and the love he enjoys among the Yemeni people.

His excellency expressed pleasure for visiting the sultanate to meet with Omani officials.

He was received upon arrival by Qays Bin-'Abd-al-Mun'im al-Zawawi, deputy prime minister for financial and economic affairs.

Qabus Receives Yemeni Official

JN2606060494 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 26 Jun 94

[Text] His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman yesterday received [Yemeni] Presidential Council member brother 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani who conveyed to him a message from Presidential Council Chairman brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. The message deals with developments in our country and the bilateral friendly relations.

The meeting was attended by His Excellency Qays Bin-'Abd-al-Mun'im al-Zawawi, [Omani] deputy prime minister for financial and economic affairs; and His Excellency Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs in the fraternal Sultanate of Oman.

Saudi Arabia

Saudi, Omani Ministers Discuss Yemen Conflict

NC2606162094 Paris AFP in English 1533 GMT 26 Jun 94

[Excerpt] Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, June 26 (AFP)—Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal met a senior

Omani official here Sunday [26 June] to discuss the conflict in neighbouring Yemen, where northern forces launched a new intensive bombardment of the southern stronghold of Aden.

Omani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yusuf Bin-'Alawi 'Abdallah paid a brief visit to Jeddah and held talks with Prince Sa'ud, Arab diplomats said, only a day after a senior northern Yemeni envoy had visited Oman.

Meanwhile fighting raged in the suburbs of Aden, following the collapse of the fifth ceasefire to be announced in the two-month-old civil war.

Oman and Saudi Arabia played a key role in securing the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 924 of June 1, which called for an immediate ceasefire. Oman currently chairs the Security Council.

On Saturday 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, a member of the northern Yemeni presidential council, handed a message to Sultan Qabus of Oman from Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

The northern Yemeni authorities blamed the south for violating the latest ceasefire, declared by Sanaa late Saturday. It was set for midnight (2100 GMT).

"The (southern) rebel outlaws violated the ceasefire and continued their aggression against our armed forces in the Aden and Hadhramawt provinces," a northern spokesman said.

The northern Yemeni cabinet held a special meeting Sunday to discuss the ceasefire, Sanaa radio said, but ministers learned of the renewed fighting during the meeting. [passage omitted]

Defense Minister Speaks on Arab, World Issues

LD2706215294 Riyadh SPA in English 1958 GMT 27 Jun 94

[Text] Jeddah, June 27, SPA—The second deputy premier, minister of defense, aviation and inspector general, Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz presided over the weekly regular session of the Council of Ministers at al-Salam palace in Jeddah this afternoon.

In a statement to Saudi Press Agency, Information Minister 'Ali al-Sha'ir said Prince Sultan, at the outset of the meeting, had briefed the cabinet on the latest Arab and international events and reports related to the Yemeni arena.

Prince Sultan highlighted also the great role that had been undertaken by Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz to end the fighting and save the blood of the innocent Yemeni brothers.

"King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, may the Almighty God preserve him, is making continuous efforts on Arab and international levels for a decisive and firm ceasefire in Yemen," Prince Sultan informed the cabinet.

Al-Sha'ir said Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister presented a detailed report on the outcome of his recent tour to a number of Arab and western countries during the last few days and contents of messages he had sent to a number of Arab foreign ministers and the outcome of his talks with them. Prince Sa'ud also briefed the cabinet on his impressions of the tour. Prince Sa'ud said the wise directives of custodian of the two holy mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz at the current critical circumstances facing the region, necessitate continuous efforts, meetings and consultations to be directed with the aim of dedication of peace and stability in the region.

Al-Sha'ir said the cabinet also reviewed the latest reports carried by the media on the deteriorating situation in Somalia, Afghanistan and Bosnia. Referring to Somalia, the cabinet expressed regret over the latest and sharp escalations in fighting in Mogadishu between the conflicting factions for the third day running that led to a big number of casualties and the loss of lives. It also expressed concern on the sudden escalations in air bombardment operations in the western Afghan city of Herat.

The cabinet also followed the latest developments in the Bosnian arena and the efforts being made by commander of the Bosnian Army to defend the lives, territories and honour of the Bosnian people on all fronts vis-a-vis the unannounced Serbian attacks.

In this context, al-Sha'ir said, the Saudi Council of Ministers appealed to the conflicting parties throughout Arab and Islamic worlds to put weapons aside, seek rational and amicable solutions for disputes bearing in mind that conflicts between brothers would serve no one except their enemies and will never be in the best interests of the Arab and Islamic nations.

"The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is always looking forward for establishment of peace and justice all over the world," al-Sha'ir noted.

Meanwhile, the cabinet reviewed a number of domestic items on its agenda and Prince Sultan listened to views and suggestions made by the concerned ministers on them. It also opted for the necessary procedures on them.

The cabinet agreed on the renewal of the commercial and economic agreement between the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Lebanese Republic which was concluded in 1391 AH [27 February 1971] for one more year effective from 26-1-1415 [5 July 1994].

It endorsed the closing account of the department of retirement and pensions for the fiscal year 1411/1412 AH [24 July 1990 to 13 July 1991] and approved some appointments at Grade 14th.

Interior Ministry Statement on Satellite TV Ban

LD2706203294 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 27 Jun 94

[Statement issued by the Interior Ministry; place and date not given]

[Text] In accordance with Decree No. 128 of the Council of Ministers issued on 7 March 1994 regarding the organization of the operation of satellite television reception in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia—which stipulates a ban on the use of satellite dishes and corresponding equipment and on the use of decoders and similar equipment; and regarding the guidelines defined by the decree on an alternative method that the state will provide and that will be under the supervision of the Information Ministry, while forbidding any other quarters to deal in this matter; and due to numerous inquiries that appropriate circles continue to receive from citizens regarding this issue; the Interior Ministry would like to clarify in the following statement everything that relates to the definition of the foundations and rules that will be implemented regarding all issues related to satellite television transmissions and within the framework mentioned in the decree as follows:

1. With regard to satellite dishes and unused related equipment that is actually in the possession of individuals, shops, and warehouses, their owners will be allowed to export them officially through all air, land, and sea outlets and anywhere abroad in accordance with the wishes of the beneficiary party within a maximum deadline of one month from the issuance and the enforcement of this statement.

Failing this, and following the lapse of the deadline defined in the first article, any equipment found in the possession of individuals or commercial shops will be confiscated immediately, and the offender will be subjected to the articles of fines as stipulated by the decree of the Council of Ministers.

2. The word receiver and corresponding equipment means the following equipment:

A. All sizes and models of satellite dishes

B. All types and sizes of receivers used for satellite television reception

C. The decoders

D. Low noise block down converters or LNB's

E. Feed horn equipment.

G. All other equipment and gadgets used in the installation and operation of the satellite dish

3. It should be particularly stressed to citizens not to deal or trade in the banned items that have been defined in this statement and in the previous decision of the Council of Ministers. We pray to God for success.

United Arab Emirates

Foreign Minister Meets With Southern Yemen Envoy

JN2606153794 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1440 GMT 26 Jun 94

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 26 Jun (WAKH)—Shaykh Hamdan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, minister of state for foreign affairs in the United Arab Emirates [UAE], today conferred with Dr. Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, member of the Yemeni Socialist Party's Political Bureau.

Mr. Nu'man told the United Arab Emirates News Agency that the session addressed developments in Yemen and explored ways to implement UN Security Council cease-fire Resolution 924 and the possibility of a return to dialogue.

Nu'man said he appreciated the UAE's attitude toward developments in Yemen.

With reference to the efforts being made to end hostilities, Nu'man said this should be the target of political efforts. He called on the international community to work toward that end.

Yemen

Salih Receives Messages From GCC Leaders

JN2506183094 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 25 Jun 94

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman, today received brothers 'Ali al-Qutaybi, ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; Sayf al-Mansuri, ambassador of the United Arab Emirates [UAE]; 'Awad Mahfuz Bakathir, ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman; and Mansur al-'Awadi, charge d'affaires of the State of Kuwait to our country who conveyed to the brother president verbal messages from the leaders of their countries in response to the verbal messages the brother president addressed to his brothers Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques Fahd Bin-'Abd al-'Aziz, monarch of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan, UAE president; His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id, Sultan of Oman; and His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, amir of the State of Kuwait during his meeting with the ambassadors of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states to our country last week.

The Yemeni News Agency, SABA', learned that the messages deal with developments in our country and issues of common interest between our country and the GCC states.

Official Returns From Oman With Message for Salih

JN2606134494 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 26 Jun 94

[Text] Brother 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, member of the Presidential Council, returned to Sanaa this afternoon, winding up a working visit to the sisterly Sultanate of Oman. During the visit, brother 'Abd-al-Ghani conveyed a message from brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council and supreme commander of the Armed Forces, to his brother His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman. The message deals with the latest Yemeni developments and bilateral issues of common interest.

In a statement to the Yemeni News Agency, SABA', the Presidential Council member explained that he was carrying a reply message to brother Lt. Gen. 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih from his brother His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman.

Brother 'Abd-al-Ghani was seen off at the Omani airport by brother Sayf al-Zawawi, Omani deputy prime minister; Omani officials; and the staff of the Yemeni Embassy in Oman.

Interior Minister Views Terrorism, Security

JN2706172594 Amman AL-DUSTUR (second part) in Arabic 27 Jun 94 p 1

[Interview with Interior Minister Yahya al-Mutawakkil by Shakir al-Jawhari in Sanaa; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Jawhari] Mr. Minister, I would like to start this interview by asking you to explain a phenomenon that I do not understand. How did you manage to control the security situation during war times better than during peace when many Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] leaders were targets for assassinations, which was one of the reasons for the current crisis in Yemen?

[Al-Mutawakkil] We thank God that the security situation fares well in spite of the existence of a conspiracy to undermine and sabotage institutions. We have unraveled many chapters of this conspiracy. In spite of this conspiracy, one can note that the security situation is satisfactory, and I hope this will remain so for a long time. [passage omitted]

[Al-Jawhari] Can you give us examples of the sabotage operations that citizens have been tasked to carry out and which they have revealed to you, as well as who tasked them to do so?

[Al-Mutawakkil] We have discovered many sabotage operations, including plans to blow up the television station building, and many bridges on public routes, power plants, and oil pumps.

Some of the operations were carried out. However, thanks to God, they were unsuccessful. A device was detonated on the oil pipeline from Ma'rib to al-Sarif [name as transliterated] Port near al-Hudaydah. But, the citizens quickly repaired the damage. The perpetrators were identified and we arrested some of their relatives. We now are looking for the perpetrators with the help of their relatives.

[Al-Jawhari] To which side do those involved in the sabotage operations that were discovered before they were implemented belong?

[Al-Mutawakkil] Most of them are mercenaries who are ready to work for the party that pays them. Some confessed that the YSP paid them money, while others said they were YSP members.

Their arrest has also revealed to us that some of them collaborated with leading figures within the YSP in carrying out the assassination attempts against the party's leaders. We will try these elements at the appropriate time. [passage omitted]

[Al-Jawhari] House of Representatives Speaker Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Ahmar said that Tariq al-Fadli was set free. How can he and others be released without trial?

[Al-Mutawakkil] I would like to clarify here that those who were detained in Aden and Lahij were released in view of the present battle because the prison doors were open. They came out and some of them are fighting.

[Al-Jawhari] Fighting with whom?

[Al-Mutawakkil] Some are fighting with the forces of legitimacy and others against it. Tariq al-Fadli is the only one to be released on bail because the public prosecutor, as yet, has not indicted him. Therefore, and in view of the extraordinary circumstances, he was released on bail on condition that he appear before the court as soon as conditions enabling the court to convene are made available.

[Al-Jawhari] Who put up the bail for him?

[Al-Mutawakkil] One of the shaykhs of the al-Fadli clan.

[Al-Jawhari] And who ordered his release?

[Al-Mutawakkil] The public prosecutor. No one objected to this decision. We did not object because we are passing through extraordinary circumstances. While he was under arrest, he used to ask that he be tried. Aden used to ask that he be tried in Aden, while we believe he should be tried in Sanaa. He insisted on being tried because he said he was innocent. He gave himself up because he was certain of his innocence. When the war broke out, several shaykhs pledged that he would present himself to court when asked to do so. The public prosecution agreed to this and we did not object. [passage omitted]

[Al-Jawhari] Has his interrogation disclosed that he is a member of the Jihad group?

[Al-Mutawakkil] I am not sure of this but the information we have indicates that he is.

[Al-Jawhari] And did he fight in Afghanistan?

[Al-Mutawakkil] I am not sure of this, as he was arrested before I took office.

[Al-Jawhari] According to the information you have as interior minister, is there any relationship between the Jihad group and any other group in the country?

[Al-Mutawakkil] The prevalence of democracy following unity has enabled political parties to work in a healthy atmosphere. The Islamic parties were among the parties that exercised their political role with complete freedom, and emerged in the Yemeni arena as an influential, positive, and constructive force that rejects terrorism. From this premise, any Islamic grouping, whatever the name it assumes, if it does not apply for a license, will be considered illegal if it carries out any activity. This is because it will be viewed as an unlicensed party.

[Al-Jawhari] Has the Jihad organization applied for a license?

[Al-Mutawakkil] No, and I think it is not qualified to be a party.

[Al-Jawhari] Why?

[Al-Mutawakkil] Because it consists of very small groups. There are two major Islamic parties, the Yemeni Reform Grouping and the al-Maqarr Party [name as published]. These two parties represent all the politically active members of the religious community.

The elements of the Jihad are very few and cannot form a party or attract anybody. Their work is mostly guided.

[Al-Jawhari] You have said that the Jihad organization is not qualified to be a party. Do you mean that it is not qualified because of reasons that have to do with it or because of objective reasons related to the Parties Law?

[Al-Mutawakkil] Reasons related to the party itself because any party should have a minimum of 1,500 members, as I recall, before it can operate.

[Al-Jawhari] What if the Jihad organization presents a list including the required number of members, will you give them a license as a party?

[Al-Mutawakkil] If they abide by the rules of the political game and the laws and regulations and have enough members then why not?

[Al-Jawhari] Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Ahmar says some members of the Jihad are now fighting alongside the Socialist Party. Does your information confirm this?

[Al-Mutawakkil] As far as I know, some of the people who were imprisoned by the party because they were members of the Jihad are now out. Some of them are now fighting alongside the party. I think those people were employed by elements within the party to play a certain role.

[Al-Jawhari] Perhaps they are fighting because they are biased toward the south?

[Al-Mutawakkil] Some of the armed forces fighting with the legitimacy are one hundred percent composed of southern elements, including commanders and troops, and also the al-Wahdah brigades in al-'Anad.

[Al-Jawhari] If the Jihad organization is illegal and some of its elements have carried out terrorist operations and assassinations, are all its members wanted by the security men or is this confined to those who are involved in disrupting security?

[Al-Mutawakkil] From a legal point of view, we can only demand the elements that have carried out acts of sabotage.

[Al-Jawhari] But the law does not permit the existence of illegal parties.

[Al-Mutawakkil] So far we have been dealing with the name "Jihad" as an assumption because this name has not been announced yet. The name was mentioned only in the confessions of some defendants who said they belong to this organization. We do not have sufficient evidence and documents that prove such an organization exists.

[Al-Jawhari] President Mubarak said last November that some elements in Yemen are involved in the terrorist incidents in Egypt. President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih told me then that you have explained your point of view to Egypt. I assume there have been contacts since then and that Egypt was not convinced of your view, considering its current attitude. What took place in these contacts? Have they given you documented information?

[Al-Mutawakkil] We have received Egyptian security men. We have spoken to them and made it possible for them to see for themselves that these charges are baseless.

When the president visited Egypt, I was with him. I met with the Egyptian interior minister and we agreed to conclude an agreement for security cooperation between the two countries to prevent terrorism in Yemen and Egypt. Regrettably, however, the agreement was not concluded because we were waiting for a representative of the Egyptian interior minister to come to Sanaa before we sign the agreement so that we can cooperate in explaining the situation. They will either tell us what we don't know about plots, camps, and elements, or we will explain the opposite to them.

The representative did not show up and things developed the way they are today. The time is not appropriate now to go to Egypt and talk about signing the agreement.

Whether this has any reflection on Egypt's attitude toward unity, we still hope that Egypt will preserve its historic role in Yemen and sacrifices by siding with the people who adhere to their unity. I would like to say that despite all the biased statements, we have heard from President Mubarak—during the visits of Planning Minister al-Iryani, the foreign minister, and 'Abd-al-Ghani, member of the Presidential Council—reassurances that Egypt will side with unity despite the lack of understanding of our stand toward the claims that we want to impose unity by force. Unity was the result of popular referendum and was bolstered through democratic elections. What is happening now is an attempt to impose secession by force.

So far, they have not understood this, but attempts are still under way. We hope Egypt will continue to play a constructive role to end the bloodshed and reach a common solution and resolve differences with our neighbors who are concerned with the current problem one way or another.

[Al-Jawhari] What did the Egyptian security officers who came to Sanaa achieve?

[Al-Mutawakkil] The information, which they had obtained from persons here regarding the existence of terrorist training camps, is untrue and unfounded. We sent these officers to the places that they said contained these camps, but they found nothing. They also made sure that the phone numbers they had were not used in the country.

[Al-Jawhari] Jordanian newspapers said that some of those who were arrested for involvement in bombing operations in Jordan early this year admitted that they had come to Yemen for training and that Shaykh 'Abd-al-Mahjid al-Zindani, representative of the Yemeni Reform Grouping in the Presidential Council, received them, sent them to training camps, and gave them money before they returned to Jordan. Did Jordan inform you of this?

[Al-Mutawakkil] Never. It has not informed us of such a matter at all. Our relations and ties with Jordan are so close that Jordan would have informed us of that, if it had taken place and we would have taken measures to clarify matters, but we were not informed of anything.

[Al-Jawhari] To my knowledge, Jordan informed you of the ambush to which a Jordan patrol was exposed in the township of al-Karamah late last year—an ambush during which two Yemenis were killed along with a third Jordanian citizen.

[Al-Mutawakkil] This is true. Yemenis exist everywhere. We also do not deny there were Yemenis in Afghanistan and that Bin-Ladin recruited them to carry out terrorist operations in many places, including the recent bombings in Jordan. We are with the Jordanian Government and with any other government cooperating to confront terrorism, whether the terrorists are Yemenis or not.

[Al-Jawhari] Did Bin-Ladin try to restore his Yemeni nationality after his Saudi citizenship was withdrawn?

[Al-Mutawakkil] He did not try. Maybe he is in the Democratic Republic of Yemen, to which some sultans, like Bin-Salimah and others, have returned. Why shouldn't he too return to it?

[Al-Jawhari] How many members of the YSP and the opposition parties have you arrested on the sidelines of the current war?

[Al-Mutawakkil] I prefer that you pose this question to the YSP and other parties.

[Al-Jawhari] In fact, I telephoned all my friends in these parties and found them free, but I do not know the members of all these parties.

[Al-Mutawakkil] I assure you that we have not arrested anyone because of his political affiliation, especially the YSP members who declared their support for unity and who have helped us confront the secession and reply to the forces of apostasy and rebellion.

But we have discovered warehoused weapons and espionage equipment inside Sanaa, including communications equipment, in the possession of elements of the YSP security, which was called the revolution's security. These weapons and equipment were found in public warehouses and places. They were confiscated and the perpetrators were arrested for questioning. Those who were not tasked with any duties except warehousing were released.

[Al-Jawhari] What were the duties of the others?

[Al-Mutawakkil] Some elements from the north and the south were tasked with carrying out terrorist operations in all the northern governorates, particularly in Sanaa, as soon as the dispute erupted. We stormed these weapons warehouses to arrest the perpetrators, many of whom managed to escape. Some of them, however, returned and said that they were ordered by the YSP leadership to carry out such operations and that they were ready to cooperate with the security forces. They are actually cooperating with us to obtain new information.

[Al-Jawhari] How many YSP members are now in prison?

[Al-Mutawakkil] I assure you there are no YSP members in prison. However, there are elements who do not belong to the YSP but were ordered to carry out bombing operations. When we questioned them, we discovered they were just mercenaries.

There are other people who possessed weapons belonging to the YSP. These were arrested and questioned for one week and were freed. I assure you that every detained YSP member was released. Undoubtedly, some people were kept after weapons were found in their houses and after they were accused of acts of hostility, but we released them after one or two weeks.

[Al-Jawhari] Have other people from other parties been arrested?

[Al-Mutawakkil] No one from other parties was arrested. [passage omitted]

Al-Zindani Receives British, U.S. Ambassadors

JN2706180894 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 27 Jun 94

[Text] Shaykh 'Abd-al-Majid al-Zindani, member of the Presidential Council, today received Robert Douglas Gordon, the British ambassador to our country.

During the meeting, they discussed bilateral ties, as well as the current situation and the rebels' noncompliance with the cease-fire.

The member of the Presidential Council explained the efforts that were made and the concessions that were offered in order to avoid igniting the fire of sedition and how the rebels insisted on sparking it and on departing from legitimacy. He asserted that the state does not want war and loves peace. However, he added: We are keen on maintaining our unity and the independence and sovereignty of our country and the continuation of shura and democracy and respecting the people's will, represented in the 27 April 1993 elections.

For his part, the British ambassador expressed satisfaction over the Yemeni government's cooperation with Lakhdar Brahimi, the envoy of the UN secretary general. He said that Britain supports democracy in Yemen and is anxiously awaiting the report that will be presented by the international envoy.

Afterward, Shaykh 'Abd-al-Majid al-Zindani, member of the Presidential Council, received Arthur Hughes, the U.S. ambassador in Sanaa.

They discussed bilateral ties and ways of enhancing them. The brother member of the Presidential Council asserted that the state had complied with the cease-fire but that the rebels violated it. He added: We are waiting for the U.S. Government to explain its position toward this. He pointed out that the Yemeni Republic appreciates the concern of the brothers and friends not to see more Yemeni bloodshed, noting that the war is not an end in itself and that it will leave negative effects. He said all countries that care about Yemen should seek to end the war by not extending any moral or material support to the secessionist rebels and ensuring our Yemeni people's rights as noted in the UN Charter, primarily freedom, democracy, justice, and independence.

For his part, the U.S. ambassador expressed his satisfaction with the recent cease-fire decision issued by the state, saying he deems this a step toward a complete cease-fire. He said the United States had earlier asserted that it does not approve of recognizing secession and that it seeks dialogue. He expressed his belief that new efforts for reconciliation could be made by Lakhdar Brahimi in a new visit to the region.

Ministry: Aden Citizens Free To Travel to Any Area

JN2806051794 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 28 Jun 94

[Statement issued by "a responsible source" at the Interior Ministry; place and date not given]

[Text] In the light of compliance with the cease-fire decision, and out of concern to allow the brother citizens in Aden to move freely and safely to other parts and governorates of the Republic, the Interior Ministry informs all the brother citizens in Aden that they can travel to any area of the Republic they wish, including travel to and from 'Adan al-Sughra [a suburb of Aden].

The Interior Ministry, in cooperation with the Armed Forces, will provide all facilities to the brother citizens during their travel to and from Aden.

Al-Bid Decree Turns Brewery Into Soft Drinks Factory

NC2706124094 Paris AFP in English 1157 GMT 27 Jun 94

[Text] Aden, Yemen, June 27 (AFP)—Southern Yemeni authorities have decided to turn Aden's brewery—the only one in the Arabian peninsula—into a soft drinks factory.

The decision was a reaction to northern war propaganda which has tagged southerners "beer drinkers and atheists," Yemeni sources said. Alcohol is forbidden by Islam.

The brewery conversion, announced by Aden television Monday, was also aimed at pleasing conservative Gulf monarchs who have looked favourably on the south during the two-month-old civil war, the sources said.

A special committee chaired by the breakaway south's trade and industry "minister" Yahya al-Jifri will supervise the brewery's conversion, the television said, quoting a decree by "president" 'Ali Salim al-Bid.

The brewery in al-Mansurah, a northwest suburb of Aden, was opened in 1981 with the help of former East Germany. It employs 200 people.

Before war erupted on May 5 the brewery produced a million half-litre bottles of beer a month under the trademark Seera. Water shortages brought production to a halt at least two weeks ago.

In 1993 the brewery made a net profit of 100 million Yemeni riyals, more than eight million US dollars on the official exchange rate.

The south declared the breakaway Yemen Democratic Republic on May 21, two weeks after war broke out between al-Bid's forces and northern troops loyal to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

YSP Official Muhammad on 'New Weapons,' UK Visit

JN2706195894 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I in Arabic 23 Jun 94 p 31

[Telephone interview with Salim Salih Muhammad, Yemeni Presidential Council member and YSP assistant secretary general, in Rabat, by 'Ali al-'Amudi; date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Al-'Amudi] Your stay in London for medical treatment lasted more than one month. Later, it became evident that you were on a mission for the political leadership in Aden. Can you tell us about the nature of this mission, and did you contact the British Government during that period?

[Muhammad] We carried out our duty toward our people, who are being torn apart by this dirty war. The results of our efforts, whether with the British, the brothers, or the friends, were compatible with what we believe to be our duty. We held many meetings at the British Foreign Office, with the parliamentary blocs, and with influential political, cultural, and trade quarters. The world at large has come to realize the danger of what is taking place in Yemen. I believe that the trend is to tackle these dangers. We carried out this mission in coordination with the leadership, and I would like to reassure you that things are proceeding in a coordinated and well-planned manner.

[Al-'Amudi] Sukhoi-29 aircraft appeared for the first time in the skies of the northern side. What does this mean? Are we to witness a new escalation where the Democratic Republic of Yemen will bring into the battle its strategic bombers which, as yet, have not entered the battle?

[Muhammad] We have information about military aircraft Sanaa received through Iran. Some of these aircraft were destroyed in Ta'izz airport in an air strike by the aircraft of steadfast Aden. With respect to what the southern side has, weapons alone will not determine the course and outcome of the battle. What will decide the battle will be the position that defends honor, dignity, and property against those who decided that the south with its inhabitants, villages, and cities is up for grabs for the army of Sanaa and its most important tribes.

The war will be a protracted one. People will resist the invasion, using all means, including new weapons. In this case, these weapons will be authorized because they will be used in self-defense.

[Al-'Amudi] Yahya Mansur Abu-Usba' has said in Cairo that steps are being taken to form a provisional YSP command under Salih 'Abbad in Sanaa. What does the YSP assistant secretary general have to say to this?

[Muhammad] Only the YSP central bodies have such a right. The war will produce unexpected results on all levels. Therefore, it is premature to say anything now. Otherwise, the issue will be similar to the many appointments that the Sanaa regime announces.

I met brother Yahya Abu-Usba' in Cairo. He told me things that are very different from what the press reports. [passage omitted]

South's 'Defense Minister' Views Developments

PM2806085894 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 27 Jun 94 p 2

[Telephone interview with "South Yemen Defense Minister" Staff Major General Haytham Qasim Tahir in Aden by Salih Qallab in Amman "last night"]

[Excerpts] [Qallab] Northern forces have made successes on all axes, while your forces are still in a defensive position. What are the real causes of that?

[Tahir] The other side, that is the ruling military regime in Sanaa, prepared for the war a long time ago. And the treacherous attacks on our units in the north were real "rehearsals" for the war. Besides, the regime in Sanaa has pushed all its army and tens of thousands of armed tribes loyal to it and 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar [leader of the Yemeni Reform Grouping], and all the state's human and material resources into this war.

As for us, we have confronted this all-out war with modest human and material resources. [passage omitted]

[Qallab] You spoke about Sudanese and Iraqi participation in the fighting against you, but you have failed to prove it through POW's, equipment, or anything else...?

[Tahir] There is no doubt at all about the participation of Iraq, Sudan, and other states in the war alongside the ruling military regime in Sanaa. There are Iraqi military personnel and soldiers fighting alongside northern forces. A number of them were arrested on the Shabwah axis, and the media covered this issue then, with both sound and picture.

I can confirm to you that the war launched against us is run from A to Z by Iraqi experts. Sudan too is participating in the war directly or indirectly, proceeding from the alliance declared between the two regimes in Sanaa and Khartoum—the alliance in which extremists are playing the major and crucial part.

The "Afghan Arabs" group is also participating in this war alongside northern forces. [passage omitted]

[Qallab] Is it true that 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih wanted to capture Aden, or did he put pressure on this front to keep your forces there in order to seize the oil area in Shabwah?

[Tahir] 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih will not be able to capture Aden or occupy the oil area in Shabwah. All he has done is inflict further destruction and ruin on Yemen, killing more innocent women, children, and elderly and destroying the northern and southern armies. And the days have proved since the fighting broke out on 27 April that this war is a losing war in which there is no victor, and certainly it will backfire on those who ignited it.

[Qallab] The northerners accuse you of receiving military aid from some neighboring states. What truth is there in these accusations?

[Tahir] These accusations are designed for the media and to divert attention from the aid the other side is receiving from a number of states. Media and diplomatic sources abroad have on several occasions revealed the names of these states. [passage omitted]

[Qallab] As is known, you are using Soviet and eastern weapons in general. How you have been able to sort matters out during the war, especially with regard to spare parts?

[Tahir] We have sufficient weapons and equipment to defend ourselves and the sovereignty of our state.

[Qallab] If a cease-fire is announced, how will the issue of the land seized from the "Democratic Republic of Yemen" [DRY] during the war be tackled?

[Tahir] The cease-fire issue is no longer a Yemeni affair. It is now an international affair in accordance with Security Council Resolution 924, which was adopted only after 'Ali 'Abdallah's refusal to respond to the voice of reason and logic and all Arab initiatives and appeals to halt this war, whose only aim is to kill and destroy.

We presented an initiative to form a team of international observers to watch and implement the cease-fire and withdraw northern forces to their previous positions before the fighting broke out. I would like here to stress that we will not abandon a single inch of the DRY's territory. [passage omitted]

[Qallab] As defense minister of the Republic of Yemen who knows a great deal, which is really the quarter planning and leading northern operations?

[Tahir] I was defense minister of the Republic of Yemen. I am now defense minister of the DRY. And I know that the military regime in Sanaa planned a long time ago for this criminal all-out war against our people in the DRY. I also know that 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's advisers and Iraqi military experts planned and led the military operations against our people. But their plans have failed or at least have not been implemented according to plan. That is with the exception of inflicting further human losses and destroying the economic structure of both parts of Yemen, south and north. [passage omitted]

[Qallab] Is it true that the northerners are pushing you to declare a state in Hadhramaut, make Aden a free zone, and annex the governorates seized by northern forces to the north?

[Tahir] There is no doubt about that. And when the regime in Sanaa talks about legitimacy and unity, it does so for overt media and political consumption. But I stress to you that our people will fight bravely and valiantly to defend every inch of the DRY's territory.

[Qallab] What unity formula would you accept after the failure of the previous formula, which led to this devastating war?

[Tahir] It is difficult to talk about any form of unity with the Sanaa military regime, which slaughtered unity and wanted to annihilate our people, occupy their land, attack their honor, and plunder their money and resources. [passage omitted]

Sanaa 'Source' Denies North Cease-Fire Violation

JN2706113194 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 27 Jun 94

[Text] An official Yemeni spokesman has denied rumors circulated by certain Gulf and foreign media that the forces of legitimacy violated the cease-fire.

In a press statement issued last night, the Yemeni spokesman refuted allegations by REUTER and other Gulf news agencies that the aircraft of the legitimate forces raided Aden suburbs where the rebels are deployed and targeted the drinking water storage tanks in the area. The spokesman said these allegations are fabricated, noting that the drinking water sources are controlled by the forces of legitimacy and not in the hands of the rebels.

The source criticized reports by the Egyptian Middle East News Agency, the United Arab Emirates Television, and the Kuwait Television that the forces of legitimacy violated the cease-fire. He stressed that this bias in favor of the western media organs serve schemes that aim only at harming Yemen and the unity of its people and land.

Sanaa Claims 'Rebels' Breach Cease-fire

JN2806050894 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0330 GMT 28 Jun 94

[Text] An official source has stated that the gang of rebels has not abided by the cease-fire since it was announced and until now, despite its false claims that it accepted it and is committed to implement it.

The source said this rebel gang continued its treacherous attacks against units of the Armed Forces on the Aden axis and against the brother citizens and residential quarters in the city. The rebels used naval units and bombarded the positions of the forces of unity and constitutional legitimacy from the land and sea. They

also intensified air sorties over the Armed Forces camps in al-Haswah, Dar Sa'd, al-Kamathri, Shaykh 'Uthman, and other areas.

The source stressed that this gang, which sold itself, its mind, and conscience to the devil, continues its attacks, thinking that this will enable it to arrive at its objective of internationalizing the crisis of the domestic sedition which it flared to serve and execute its failed traitorous scheme against the people and their unity, security, stability.

South Statement Urges Intervention, Says No Surrender

NC2806053694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2200 GMT 27 Jun 94

[Text] Aden, 27 Jun (MENA)—The self-declared presidential council in south Yemen has called for other countries to intervene to stop the constant northern Yemeni shelling of civilians and vital institutions in Aden and what it termed "the brutal acts of repression by the Sanaa regime in the occupied areas."

A statement issued by the council and faxed to MENA tonight says: "The Sanaa regime has no respect for the resolutions and pleas made by the international community. It has consistently declared cease-fires, breached them, and blamed the southerners."

The statement accuses Sanaa's authorities of depriving Aden's inhabitants of water, saying that wells are the only source of water following the destruction of water pipes and reservoirs and the purification station.

The statement vows continuing "national resistance in the occupied areas" and says that the southerners refuse to surrender.

Fierce Battles Continue to Rage Near Aden

Aden Facing 'Intensive Shelling'

LD2706123794 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 27 Jun 94

[Text] Aden hospital sources say that 12 people were killed and 100 injured in shelling by north Yemeni forces in the northern outskirts of Aden this morning.

Medical sources have let it be known that four citizens were killed and 31 injured by northern forces' shelling of the Shaykh 'Uthman, al Mansurah, Dar Sa'd and 'Umar al Mukhtar districts north of Aden.

REUTERS quoted south Yemeni officials as saying that more than 250 people were killed and hundreds injured during last week's Yemeni shelling of Aden.

A Yemeni military source said that fierce battles with tanks and artillery between the south and north Yemeni forces are continuing on all fronts and that Aden has been facing an intensive northern shelling of residential districts since dawn today. The south Yemeni military communique pointed out that more than nine north Yemeni tanks and three Katyusha launchers were burned and more than 50 soldiers were killed.

South Claims Plane Downed, Tanks Destroyed

NC2706211094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2030 GMT 27 Jun 94

[Text] Cairo, 27 Jun (MENA)—A military source in Aden today said that southern forces downed one of several northern planes that were trying to bombard Aden's oil refineries.

In a statement faxed to MENA tonight, the source said that southern troops destroyed six tanks and killed, wounded, or captured hundreds of northern troops.

Casualties, Artillery 'Duels' Detailed

NC2806060694 Paris AFP in English 2251 GMT 27 Jun 94

[Excerpt] Aden, June 28 (AFP)—Northern Yemeni gunners blasted the beleaguered southern capital Aden Monday [27 June], killing at least 19 people and wounding 180, hospital sources said.

Units from both north and south Yemen were locked in intensive artillery duels around Madinat al-Sha'b, 10 kilometres (six miles) west of Aden city centre, where northern forces broke through on Saturday.

The sound of gunfire could be heard from within Aden itself, an AFP correspondent said.

Al-Jumhuriyah hospital sources said the day's shelling had killed six civilians and wounded a further 56, while 13 soldiers were also killed and 124 injured.

Since June 11, an estimated 415 civilians have been killed and more than 1,100 injured in bombardments in and around Aden, according to statistics compiled from official and hospital sources.

A southern military spokesman said meanwhile that southern troops had managed to halt "new attempts by enemy forces to progress towards Aden."

"Four northern tanks were destroyed and hundreds of enemy soldiers and officers killed or wounded," the spokesman said, while others had been taken prisoner.

A southern statement vowed that "Aden will resist and will transform itself into a cemetery for the new invaders."

An unspecified number of northern aircraft earlier launched a raid on Aden's oil refinery, 18 kilometres (10 miles) west of the city, the southern spokesman said, adding ground defences had downed one plane.

Eyewitnesses said two planes fired four missiles at the refinery, one of which hit an empty building. Another damaged pipelines.

A spokesman for the north in Sanaa denied its planes had launched an air raid. [passage omitted]

Northern Forces Using 'Modern' Tanks

LD2806105494 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 28 Jun 94

[Excerpt] This morning the city of Aden was subjected to more violent artillery and missile shelling by northern Yemeni forces. Medical sources in Aden said that 15 people were injured in the shelling against the northern outskirts of Aden.

A southern Yemeni military source said that the battles between the northern and southern forces resumed on all fronts surrounding the city and said that it was noticed during yesterday's and today's battles that the Sanaa forces used modern tanks which were not in the possession of the northern forces before or after unification. Southern Yemeni officials had announced earlier that the southern forces foiled an attack launched by northern Yemeni forces to control a main road leading to the city of Aden in a suburb where the refinery is situated. They said that a northern force composed of hundreds of soldiers preceded by three tanks was able for a short while to block the road leading to the area where the refinery is situated but the road was reopened yesterday afternoon after the northern forces were driven back. [passage omitted]

North, South Use of Fatwas To Justify Fighting Seen

NC2806062394 Paris AFP in English 0141 GMT 28 Jun 94

[Report by Habib Tarabulsi]

[Text] Dubai, June 28 (AFP)—Rival northern and southern Yemeni forces are using fatwas or religious decrees, issued by Muslim leaders of both parties, to justify continued fighting in their bloody civil war.

In the north, the powerful Islamic movement al-Islah, which backs President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, sees the conflict as a "jihad" or holy war against the "atheists" of the Yemen Socialist Party (YSP) in the south.

Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar, al-Islah leader, told journalists recently that the war between north and south was "a holy war that must not be stopped, even if it costs a million lives."

Al-Ahmar, also speaker in the northern-dominated parliament, repeated in his name a fatwa issued previously by 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Daylami, another al-Islah leader.

Sanaa radio broadcast the fatwa, which declared that "a ceasefire in the war against the atheists is against the Islamic Shariah (law)."

Al-Daylami, a professor at Sanaa university, advocated "the continuation of the jihad against the secessionists, including women and children."

His appeal was repeated by imams, or prayer leaders, in Sanaa mosques during Friday prayers.

But southern mullahs—Muslim scholars—close to the YSP immediately condemned the northern fatwa as "heresy."

Southern mullah Sa'id 'Ali Nur responded with another televised fatwa, calling on Yemenis to "put an end to this fratricidal war" and reminding them that the Koran forbids "brother Muslims" to kill each other.

However, other mullahs in the southern Hadhramaut province issued a statement calling on southerners to "use their legitimate right of self-defence" to "push back the (northern) invaders."

The statement, broadcast on Radio Aden, added: "Our religious and national duty tells us to carry out a just fight against the forces of evil, who plunder our wealth and attack our honour."

'Abd-al-Rahman al-Jifri, appointed vice president of the breakaway southern state, used Friday prayers in Aden's principal mosque to condemn "the call to murder innocent women and children."

But al-Jifri, head of the moderate Islamic party League of the Sons of Yemen, called for calm from the faithful who demanded revenge attacks on northern residential areas.

He said al-Islah was "regressive." YSP leaders have accused the movement of protecting members of the shadowy fundamentalist group Jihad, which has carried out attacks on southern targets.

Al-Jifri also challenged northerner Shaykh 'Abd-al Majid Zindani to a televised debate on the war of the fatwas.

Al-Zindani is a member of the presidential council at Sanaa, as well as being the leading theorist of al-Islah and a declared enemy of southern "atheists."

Al-Jifri said the TV debate would be refereed by the principal theological authority for Sunni Muslims—Shaykh Jad al-Haqq 'Ali Jad al-Haqq, vice chancellor of Al-Azhar university in Cairo.

Al-Zindani has not yet risen to the challenge.

In the meantime Shaykh 'Abd-al-Aziz Bin-'Abdallah Bin-Baz, head of the highest religious authority in neighbouring Saudi Arabia, sent an "urgent appeal" to Yemeni leaders for an "immediate halt to this fratricidal war."

War broke out between Salih's forces and those of his southern rival 'Ali Salim al-Bid on May 5.

The south declared the breakaway Yemen Democratic Republic on May 21, ending four years of uneasy unity since former conservative North Yemen merged with the Marxist South.

PUK, KDP Leaders Agree To Resolve Problems

NC2706181594 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 27 Jun 94

[Text] A meeting was held in Irbil today between officials from the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] and the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] in the presence of a delegation from Socialist International. Party leader Mas'ud Barzani, Dr. Rawj Nuri Shawij, and [names indistinct] attended the meeting from the KDP. From the PUK the meeting was attended by leader Jalal Talabani, Kusret Rasul 'Ali, and [names indistinct].

During a bilateral meeting held between brother Talabani and Barzani, an agreement was reached to invite the political bureaus of the PUK and KDP to a meeting tomorrow, call on the government and the parliament to immediately assume their customary duties, and suspend media campaigns. An agreement was also reached on the need for the two political bureaus to prepare the necessary plans to tackle all the problems between the two sides and invite the leaders of the Kurdistan Front to the same meeting to help resolve these problems.

Fighting Between Opposition, Regime Reported

NC2706174494 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 27 Jun 94

[Text] The newspaper KURDISTAN NWAY, in today's issue, quoted exclusive sources as saying that clashes have taken place between the Iraqi opposition forces and the regime's forces in and around Baghdad and in Iraq's southern areas. The regime's troops sustained casualties as a result. The paper noted that a fierce clash took place at midnight on 9 June in al-Thawrah city between a unit from the Iraqi opposition and security forces from the Baghdad regime. Various types of weapons were used in the clash, which lasted for approximately 30 minutes. Two policemen were killed as a result.

On 11 June, a violent battle took place on the main road between al-Khalis and (al-Ba'kumah) cities. The battle later spread to the nearby fields [words indistinct]. The dictatorial regime used large-caliber weapons to shell the areas surrounding al-Khalis. Sounds of artillery shelling were heard in the [name indistinct]. A destroyed vehicle was seen on the main road and three bodies were found inside it. The paper added that extensive battles between Iraqi opposition and regime troops took place in the al-Salam and al-Maymuna marshes of al-'Amarah Governorate on 11 June. The dictatorial forces sustained severe casualties.

UN Informed of U-2 Plane Violations

JN2806104194 Baghdad INA in English 0850 GMT 28 Jun 94

[Text] New York, June 28, INA—Iraq has protested to the United Nations over continued violation of its airspace by the U-2 spy aircraft under pretext of carrying out aerial survey for the UN Special Commission.

In a message to UN Chief Dr Butrus Ghali, Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf said that the U-2 spy aircraft violated the Iraqi airspace four times over May 30 ending June 23. [sentence as received]

The minister said that this aircraft is used for purposes contrary to those underlined by the Security Council and its activities prejudice Iraq's sovereignty and security and intercept goals and principles of the United Nations in respecting equity and sovereignty of all member states.

He called upon the United Nations to immediately reconsider the use of this aircraft.

Clinton Said Pressuring King Fahd To Sign Deals

JN2806092694 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 20 Jun 94 p 3

["Standpoint" column by Sabri Hammadi: "The Bankrupt Regime and the Continuous Milking"]

[Text] Despite the continuous evidence about the bankruptcy of the Saudi regime and the fact that it is going through a very difficult economic situation this year, milking of that regime has not stopped. U.S. President Clinton continues to order Fahd's regime to conclude deals with U.S. firms involving billions of dollars!

Following the conclusion of the $6 billion airliner deal with U.S. companies, which the Saudi regime had to pay through loans from a consortium of local and U.S. banks, there are now reports that Clinton has ordered the Saudi regime to grant a $4 billion deal to the American Telecommunications Company despite the fact that other international non-American companies have made attractive bids which are far below the bid of the American company!

Although the Saudi regime is going through the worst deficit in its history and has been forced to cut its expenditures in the 1994 budget by 20 percent after spending all the surpluses it made in the eighties during the past four years, the U.S. administration is still pressuring that regime in order to extract its last penny. Otherwise, what is the meaning of Clinton's personal intervention in favor of American firms as in the airliner deal and now the deal to set up 500,000 telephone lines.

At any rate, this is not all the Saudi rulers are disposing of from the oil revenues with such utter insolence and recklessness. There are also the bribes given by the agent regime in order to prolong the blockade on Iraq, and the vast sums which are spent on corrupting news media and those working in them. More than that, there are the sums which are assigned for plots and aggressions against everything nationalist, progressive, and honest in the Arab homeland.

No doubt, U.S. milking of Fahd's regime will not stop at the telephone deal. From time to time the Saudi regime, or the Americans themselves, will invent new deals and

projects in billions of dollars. Yesterday it was the airliner deal, today the telephone deal, and tomorrow it could be a submarine deal! Yes, a Saudi official has announced that "Saudi Arabia" is considering the purchase of submarines to guarantee its security in the Gulf and the Red Sea. Naturally, the Saudi regime will need U.S. submarines for that!

The main thing is to boost the depressed U.S. economy and create job opportunities for unemployed Americans. Above all, what is important is to please the American master even if the Saudi regime has to spend its last penny.

Oil Minister Rejects Pipeline Agreement Amendments

JN2706115494 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 27 Jun 94 p 13

["Exclusive" report]

[Text] Baghdad—Iraq has emphasized its rejection of any terms or amendments to the Iraqi-Turkish agreement on operating the Iraqi oil pipeline crossing Turkish territory under any pretext.

Iraqi Oil Minister Dr. Safa' Hadi Jawad said that maintaining this pipeline should be done directly by the two sides. He asserted that Turkey should begin implementation of this agreement without consultation with the UN Security Council. The minister pointed out that the Iraqi-Turkish agreement on cleaning and maintaining the pipeline is not based on commercial considerations, asserting that the agreement was signed within a purely technical framework in order to maintain the pipeline which is liable to erosion and damage due to the Iraqi oil retained in it since early August 1990.

The Iraqi minister said that Iraq and Turkey agreed to use part of the revenues of the oil contained in the pipeline to repay some debts which Iraq owes Turkey and to use the other part of the revenues to purchase food commodities, baby milk, and medical and pharmaceutical supplies from Turkish sources. The international resolutions do not ban Iraq from importing these items. In practice, however, they obstruct their importation because the Iraqi assets abroad are still frozen and Iraq is prevented from exporting its oil freely.

Interviewed on Export Capacity

NC2706113694 Paris AFP in English 1035 GMT 27 Jun 94

[Text] Nicosia, June 27 (AFP)—Iraq now has the capacity to export more than two million barrels per day (bpd) of crude oil, its oil minister Dr. Safa' Hadi Jawad said in an interview published here on Monday.

Iraq will also demand an output quota "at parity with Iran," currently 3.6 million bpd, from the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) when UN sanctions are lifted, Jawad told the MIDDLE EAST ECONOMIC SURVEY (MEES).

A United Nations embargo on Iraqi oil exports was imposed following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in August 1990. Iraq's production quota was set at the same level with Iran's quota in July 1990.

Jawad said Iraq had met UN resolutions to destroy its weapons of mass destruction, the condition for the lifting of the embargo.

"We feel that we will soon return to the market," Jawad told the specialist newsletter published in Cyprus during an interview in Vienna.

"We can export more than 2 million bpd now. The export outlets are ready. We sustained heavy damage, but we have repaired around 90 per cent of the damaged facilities," he added.

Jawad said Iraq could export between 1.2 and 1.3 million bpd through the Iraqi-Turkish pipeline, which has a capacity of 1.8 million bpd, and 1.2 million bpd through the Mina' al-Bakr export terminal on the Gulf.

Repairs on the nearby Khawr al-Amaya terminal would be ready in the next few months to provide an initial export capacity of 600,000 bpd, al-Habubi said.

"We can also resort to exporting by trucks through Turkey and Jordan, as we did during the eighties. Hence the fact that we cannot use the Iraqi-Saudi pipeline will not affect our export capacity during the initial export stage."

The minister said Iraqi officials have visited Italy, Ukraine and France recently to discuss joint oil projects, but said there had been no negotiations yet with Japanese firms.

Jawad said Iraq would "give priority to those companies which have held negotiations with us during the embargo," after sanctions were lifted.

Iraq discussed with Ukraine the construction of a spur line from the Iraqi-Turkish pipeline to Turkey's Black Sea coast, from where oil could be exported to the Ukraine.

Transportation Agreement Signed With Sudan

EA2606125894 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1600 GMT 25 Jun 94

[Text] Khartoum, 26 June (SUNA)—A technical cooperation agreement in the field of transportation has been signed between Sudan and Iraq. The agreement deals with ports, civil aviation, railways, land and sea transport, and the exchange of skills and technical training in these fields.

The agreement was signed in Baghdad yesterday by Transportation Minister 'Uthman 'Abd-al-Qadir 'Abd al-Latif, who is visiting Iraq. Dr. Ahmad Murtada Ahmad Khalil, Iraq's minister of transport and communication, signed on behalf of his country.

After the signing, 'Uthman 'Abd-al-Qadir 'Abd al-Latif reiterated that Sudan stands alongside Iraq in its confrontation with imperialism and Zionism, which target the Arab nation. He praised the support that Iraq continues to extend to Sudan in different fields, especially in the field of transportation.

The Iraqi minister stressed that his country was eager to develop its relations with Sudan, provide it with technical skills, and benefit from Sudanese skills in return. He said all the Iraqi ministry's technical institutions and facilities are fully ready to provide training opportunities to the Sudanese.

French Businessmen Arrive For Cooperation Talks

JN2706120094 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 27 Jun 94

[Text] Ahmad Shakir, president of the Society for the Advancement of Arab-French Relations, today arrived in Baghdad leading a delegation on a visit of several days to Iraq.

In a statement to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY, Shakir said the purpose of his visit is to hold talks with Iraqi officials on the prospects for cooperation between Iraq and France in all fields and means to promote this cooperation.

He added that during the visit, the delegation will study the effects of the continued embargo and the Iraqi people's suffering as a result of the acute shortage in food, medicine, and other essential supplies.

He stressed that the French people have began to understand the Iraqi people's suffering as a result of the blockade.

The delegation comprises Senator (Jean Jacques), deputy chairman of the French Senate's Iraq-France Relations Committee, and a number of French businessmen.

Confers With Ba'th Official

JN2706153194 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1415 GMT 27 Jun 94

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Jun (INA)—Dr. 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hashimi, head of the Foreign Relations Bureau at the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and chairman of the Iraqi-French Friendship Society, met here today with Ahmad Shakir, chairman of the Association for Developing Arab-French Relations, and his delegation.

During the meeting, Dr. 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hashimi reviewed the impact of the unfair embargo clamped on Iraq, affirming that there is no longer any justification for maintaining this embargo, particularly since Iraq has fulfilled its commitments per the relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

Al-Hashimi also underscored the importance of promoting and normalizing trade and economic ties between Iraq and France in the interest of the two countries' peoples.

For his part, the chairman of the Association for Developing Arab-French Relations expressed his willingness to continue to work for the lifting of the unfair sanctions imposed on the people of Iraq.

A delegation from the association arrived in Baghdad earlier today. The delegation comprises French Senate Member Jean Jacques Robier and representatives of several French firms and banks.

'Several' Agreements Signed

JN2706202194 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1910 GMT 27 Jun 94

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Jun (INA)—A responsible source at the Ministry of Industry and Minerals has described as successful and fruitful the recent visit to Iraq by a delegation of French businessmen representing 28 French companies.

In a statement to INA, the source added that several memorandums of understanding have been signed between Iraq and the French delegation to promote cooperation and coordination between Iraq and the French firms in various areas of civilian industries, both before and after the unfair embargo is lifted.

The source indicated that Thierry Corteine [name as transliterated], chairman of the National Confederation of French Employers, reaffirmed the readiness of French firms to contribute toward the activation of developmental and industrial projects in Iraq in the interest of the two sides. He also reiterated that the French firms that dealt with Iraq in the past honored their commitments to Iraq. He indicated that the confederation will arrange for other visits to Iraq by representatives of more than 10 major companies specializing in the areas of construction, agriculture, milk industries, agricultural tractors, cars, medical supplies, hospital building, and banking. The delegations that will be visiting Iraq will also include parliamentary figures, he said.

It is to be recalled that the National Confederation of French Employers, has a membership of some 1.5 million employees working for various large and medium-sized industrial, services, and banking firms. One of the prime objectives of the confederation is to promote and expand economic cooperation between France and other countries.

Greek Ship Loaded With Wheat Arrives in Port

JN2606170994 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1638 GMT 26 Jun 94

[Text] Al-Basrah, 26 Jun (INA)—The Greek ship Archimedes docked at the commercial jetty of the grain

silo of Umm Qasr Port this evening, loaded with large quantities of Australian wheat imported by the Ministry of Trade.

A correspondent of the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY in al-Basrah said that workers of the state enterprise for grain trading began the mechanical unloading of the ship as soon as it docked at the port, while scores of trucks owned by the State Enterprise for Land Transportation lined up at the jetty to transport the wheat to the silos of the governorates.

Ministry Report on Embargo Effect on Trade

JN2806100294 Baghdad INA in English 0840 GMT 28 Jun 94

[Text] Baghdad, June 28, INA—A recent report issued by the Ministry of Culture and Information on the impact of the embargo imposed on the country four years now said that it had adversely affected all sectors in Iraq.

Minister of Trade Dr Muhammad Mahdi Salih and experts in dietetics stressed the fact that the nutritional value of the commodity actually available is one half of the normal consumption level required for an average man.

Prior to the sanctions, Iraq used to import annually about 3 billion dollars worth of foodstuffs, of which 300 million dollars for baby formula alone.

These imports, however, are either disrupted completely or severely restricted. Baby formula at cheap market prices are now beyond the reach of the majority of the children.

Before August 1990, the individual's share of the food basket distributed by the state was 25 kg per month valued at ID [Iraqi dinar] 4,50 or 1.50 dollars. The basket included dried, fresh and canned commodities.

Considering all food items together, the food ration card provides about 1736.6 calories per person per day, little less than one half of average calorie intake which stands at 2306 calories and 64.2 g of protein per day.

Food prices have risen quite substantially due to the general constraints on imports and of freezing Iraq foreign assets abroad. Pre-sanctions prices were extremely low compared to those prevailing in neighbouring countries.

The sharp increase in food price index has led to a corresponding higher levels of inflation. Current retail prices are higher by 4231 times for foodstuffs, 2933 times for meat, fish and eggs, 1463 times for vegetables and 1115 times for fruits.

Other commodities such as household items and consumer durable goods, which the Ministry of Trade used to provide before 1991, have been totally discontinued as a result of the oppressive resolutions and US continued pressure on the Security Council Sanctions Committee.

The sanctions imposed also hampered the importation of the spare parts, equipment, tyres and batteries required to maintain the internal transport capabilities.

According to the Ministry of Trade sources, foreign companies which used to run business with Iraq before 1990, have lost about US 55 billion since the inception of the economic and trade embargo.

Ban on Market Dealing in Some Commodities

JN2806080994 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 19 Jun 94 p 2

[Text] The Interior Ministry has announced that in implementation of the cabinet's decision dated 13 June 1994, the following has been decided:

First: It is prohibited to supply to the markets and to deal in commodities on which there has been a previous ban concerning their production locally and their importation from abroad. These are:

1. iced drinks and ice cream; 2. potato chips; 3. corn chips; 4. carbonated drinks, other than soda water; 5. all types of juices; 6. biscuits and chocolate, other than local plain biscuits; 7. all types of confectioneries and pastries, other than cakes and carrot jams with molasses, which are produced by Karbala' Food Canning Company only.

Second: It is prohibited to supply to the markets and to deal in commodities on which there has been a previous ban concerning their importation, except for similar commodities which are produced locally. They are:

1. cheese; 2. maize, other than that imported for fodder; 3. table salt; 4. cigarettes; 5. onions; 6. tomatoes; 7. starch; 8. sesame sauce; 9. raisins; 10. chemical substances, flavorings; 11. baking powder; 12. sodium carbonate; 13. vanilla; 14. tamarind; 15. sesame; 16. dried appricots; 17. cocoa butter substitute; 18. beer; 19. almonds; 20. flaked and raw coconut; 21. peanuts; 22. canned cocoa; 23. canned coffee; 24. butter; 25. biscuits; 26. macaroni and spaghetti; 27. fresh and canned vegetables; 28. fresh fruits, including bananas and apples.

Third: It is prohibited to supply to the markets and to deal in commodities on which there has been a previous ban concerning their importation. A 10-day grace period shall be given to remove whatever has been supplied to the market if it still exists. Severe measures shall be taken to put a final end to their supply and trading at the end of this grace period, with the exception of similar products which are produced locally. They are:

1. steel sinks; 2. water tanks; 3. wooden doors; 4. asbestos pipes and fittings; 5. mineral salts; 6. egg trays; 7. egg cartons; 8. frozen poultry cartons; 9. crates for transporting chicks and chickens; 10. printing ink; 11. tanned fur skins; 12. men and women's ready-made garments; 13. metal-casted glass; 14. nonelectric metal bells; 15.

cellophane bags; 16. instruments (cardiac, diabetic, and hypertensive); 17. (boa) ointment; 18. furniture hinges; 19. paints; 20. wallpaper; 21. false ceilings; 22. bathroom curtains; 23. wall partitions; 24. glass blocks; 25. counters; 26. home first-aid cabinets; 27. children's toys; 28. head covers other than Arabian headdress; 29. baby carriages and walkers; 30. tableware; 31. men's and women's shoes; 32. steel safes; 33. incense; 34. metallic nonstick housewares; 35. bicycles; 36. scouring pads; 37. melamine housewares; 38. nail-cutting tools; 39. Christmas trees and accessories; 40. henna; 41. tissue paper, Kleenex; 42. manual squeezers; 43. floor rags; 44. shampoo; 45. cellophane paper; 46. stationary sets; 47. pen holders for students; 48. prototypes for engineering work; 49. office desk sets; 50. baby food sets; 51. cotton buds; 52. baby scales; 53. lawn mowers; 54. all types of clocks; 55. sunglasses; 56. slide projectors; 57. movie projectors; 58. pure silk fabrics; 59. kitchen and laundry units; 60. electric vacuum cleaners; 61. electric washing machines; 62. industrial and domestic meat grinders; 63. industrial and domestic electric ovens; 64. electric squeezers and blenders; 65. air conditioners; 66. complete household set of grinders and squeezers; 67. oven lighters; 68. car radio-recorders and separate recorders; 69. small and large radios and recorders; 70. television sets; 71. refrigerators and freezers; 72. neon signs; 73. projectors; 74. floor and table lighting equipment; 75. loudspeakers; 76. heating pots; 77. chandeliers and brackets; 78. water heaters; 79. dishwashers; 80. clothes dryer; 81. telephone answering machines; 82. water coolers; 83. different types of furniture; 84. store promotional and display materials; 85. food preparations of grain and starch; 86. unsweetened cocoa powder; 87. cocoa butter and paste; 88. decorative building stones and marble tile cutters; 89. dishwashing powders; 90. other chemical materials not mentioned; 91. wooden household effects; 92. wrapping foil and greaseproof paper for confectioneries; 93. other textile and linoleum fabrics not mentioned; 94. linoleum floor covering; 95. containers, reams, and dossiers of paper; 96. spools, hanks, and other quantities of paper pulp; 97. photo angles, bands of pulp, and conical paper; 98. ordinary metal signs; 99. dolls and sports whistles; 100. printed matter not banned previously; 101. illustrated books, publications, and others; 102. melamine-coated postcards; 103. sponges; 104. perfumes and cosmetics; 105. artificial jewelry; 106. musical instruments; 107. belts and suitcases; 108. tablecloths; 109. video cassette recorders; 110. ice cream-making machines; 111. mastic; 112. hairpins; 113. picture frames; 114. thermos flasks; 115. lighters; 116. lighter flints; 117. personal cameras; 118. video cameras; 119. cinematographic equipment; 120. flash tubes; 121. photo albums; 122. scarves and ties; 123. car accessories; 124. works of art; 125. children's banks; 126. chess boards; 127. drinking straws; 128. olives; 129. dried fruits.

Impact of Sanctions on Health Conditions

JN2706123594 Baghdad INA in English 0900 GMT 27 Jun 94

[Text] Baghdad, June 27, INA—384,022 persons of all age groups had died for various reasons as a result of the effects of the blockade between August 1990 and March 1994, while in 1989, the year prior to the sanctions, the number of deaths was 23,334.

A recent report issued by the Ministry of Culture and Information, covering the impact of the blockade on the health, food, education and environment sectors said the nutritional situation of the children under five years of age, the most vulnerable group, is particularly alarming.

There has been a sharp and significant increase in cases of severe malnutrition and related syndromes such as marasmus and kwashiorkor [nutritional dystrophy] and of deficiencies of protein, calorie and vitamins.

The number of cases reported from August 1990 to March 1994 totalled 4,192,603.

The report added the under-five mortality rate has increased nearly five fold, rising from 23.8 in 1990 to 126 deaths per thousand live births since the sanctions began.

This is mainly due to the shortage of vaccines and suspension of maternal and child health programme.

Some communicable diseases which Iraq succeeded to eradicate are now widespread. There has been a sudden and striking incidence of water-born diseases including cholera, typhoid and hepatitis and of other, previously uncommon and completely preventable children diseases such as poliomyelitis, measles and tetanus.

Major surgical interventions have been reduced to 30 percent of their pre-sanctions levels and are limited to emergencies only.

The remaining 70 percent of the operations has been suspended indefinitely due to the lack of anaesthetic agents and dispensable equipment.

According to the minister of health, Dr Umid Midhat Mubarak, the acute shortage of anaesthetic drugs for curing dental diseases have compelled the dentists to look for local alternatives which, at best, produce one quarter or half of the effect needed. Most patients are now treated with no administration of anaesthetics.

Laboratory test have been effected tremendously by the severe shortage of reagents necessary for laboratory diagnosis and of laboratory apparatus.

Hospital and medical stores suffer greatly from the lack of life-sustaining drugs for the treatment of certain cardio-vascular, metabolic and endocrine diseases.

The problem has been further exacerbated with the shortage of intravenous replacement fluids and blood transfusion apparatus and also with the shortage of serums.

Hospitals and health centres are now re-sterilizing and re-using glass syringes between patients as disposable plastic syringes, all imported from abroad, are no longer available.

The plastic syringes plant, at Babil province, has been heavily bombarded by US warplanes.

The Security Council Sanctions Committee did not approve the supply of the equipment needed to put the plant back into effective operation.

Drugs and medical supplies to Iraq have been substantially reduced as a result of the sanctions imposed on the country and of the US continued pressure on foreign companies and banks.

Iraq used to import annually approximately 400-500 million dollars worth of drugs and medical appliances alone.

A large proportion of women and children, experiencing missile attacks and bombing of residential areas at close range, are invariably forced to endure conditions of severe hardship and stress.

The exposure to certain kinds of guided bombs which, when exploded, produce poisonous gases, has led to cases of abortion, premature deliveries and congenital deformity, not to mention their subsequent effect on the individual's pathological behaviour.

A Harvard study team found that the majority of Iraqi children suffer from emotional reactions (depression, sadness, anxiety and fear) and from cognitive reaction (sleep and concentration problems).

The team also reported that 57 percent of the women interviewed suffer from related symptoms like fatigue, insomnia and weight loss.

Health training institutions, over the past four years, have lost about 80 opportunities for training abroad. These cover surgery, medicine, dermatology, dentistry, anaesthesia, pathology, psychiatry, orthopaedics, physiotherapy and radiology. Medical publications, on the other hand, have been banned from entering Iraq because of the sanctions.

Doctors Urged To Use Fixed Examination Charges

JN2706200594 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 21 Jun 94 p 5

[Article By Salah al-'Abd and Nabil al-Wadi]

[Excerpt] The Doctors Union has issued new instructions fixing the charges of medical examinations in private clinics. These instructions urge all doctors to comply with the new charges, which range from 50 to 100 dinars for a specialized doctor and from 25 to 50 dinars for a practitioner.

Dr. Nayif al-Hassani, head of the Doctors Union, said that these measures by the union came at the instructions of the Council of Ministers to ease the burdens of the citizens.

The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH has followed the issue of charges for medical examinations in private clinics and noticed that these charges rose in conflict with the citizens' standard of living, especially for employees with low incomes. In a number of cases, these charges exceeded 500 dinars, when it used to be only 10 dinars. The paper also noticed that the rise in the charges is due to imposing additional charges, including charges for testing blood pressure, diabetes, and cardiography. [passage omitted]

Likud Denounces Rabin on 'Arafat Visit to Jerusalem

TA2406140994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 24 Jun 94

[Text] The Likud Knesset faction denounces Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's announcement that 'Arafat has the right to pray and visit Jerusalem's holy places. Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu told our correspondent that if the prime minister is serious in his intent not to permit the division of Jerusalem, then he must prevent 'Arafat from coming to the city and he must also close Orient House. Netanyahu believes that 'Arafat will not come to Jerusalem to pray but to divide the town and set up there a capital for the Palestinian state he plans and that Yitzhaq Rabin is assisting him in his endeavor.

Beilin: 'Arafat Has Right To Visit Jerusalem

BR2806095094 Paris LIBERATION in French 25-26 Jun 94 p 13

[Interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin by Patrick Sabatier in Paris on 24 June—first paragraph is LIBERATION introduction]

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat will be able to come and pray in Jerusalem: Yitzhaq Rabin gave this assurance on Friday [24 June] in interviews with two Israeli journalists, in the name of free access to places of worship, while stressing that "the problem is the date of such a trip, because of the security implications." At the same time, Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister, Yosi Beilin, in an interview with LIBERATION during a visit to Paris, confirmed the prime minister's statement, after having given a very positive report on Israeli-Palestinian relations. A member of the labor party's left wing, of which he is one of the most active cadres, Beilin also provides a progress report on the implementation of the Oslo agreement, of which he was one of the main authors.

[Sabatier] What have you to report, one month after Gaza and Jericho gained their autonomy?

[Beilin] We are very satisfied. The most important result is the significant drop in the level of violence. There may be people who want to resort to violence, and we cannot be sure there will not be such people in the future. However, the inhabitants of the West Bank are pleased with the new situation. They do not encourage those who want to violate the agreement and act against Israel. They do not provide terrorists with asylum, which has made terrorist activities more difficult than before. The people of Gaza go to the beach and to the restaurant, the curfew is over, and they feel that they can decide their future. An important change has been made. So far, autonomy has been a success.

[Sabatier] Is the Palestinian police force efficient and is it cooperating well with the Israeli Armed Forces?

[Beilin] I was hoping for this cooperation without being absolutely certain that it was possible. The fact that it has come is very encouraging. It proves that people accept the orders of the Palestinian police force, rather than proving the efficiency of this force. The joint patrols and committees have been very effective. The fact that we are talking to try and find solutions on the ground is one of the most important results of the agreement. It shows that, on both sides, we are capable of implementing what we have signed.

[Sabatier] What are the chances for success of the negotiations on the second stage of autonomy that start on Monday [date not specified]?

[Beilin] Our timetable is very clear. We must discuss a permanent solution before 4 May 1996 and implement it before 4 May 1999. I am not sure that we will be talking about the second phase as of Monday. First of all, we have to see whether the Palestinians are ready for the elections that would pave the way to complete autonomy in Gaza and the whole of the West Bank, or if they prefer to wait and implement a partial devolution of authority in just five domains out of 19. This second option would mean two levels of autonomy. That is one possibility, but I would rather there were elections.

[Sabatier] Will the Israeli Army be redeployed outside of the urban centers in two months time, as planned?

[Beilin] That depends on the elections. The agreement provides for this redeployment to take place on the eve of the elections. If there are no elections, we will have to decide unilaterally whether or not we will do this. The feasibility of this redeployment does not pose a problem. The decision will depend on the level of violence...

[Sabatier] Negotiations for Gaza and Jericho took six months. Are you not afraid that the negotiations on the rest will not be much longer and harder, given the close proximity of the peoples?

[Beilin] The hardest thing has been achieved—mutual recognition and direct dialogue with Yasir 'Arafat. In addition, the Gaza-Jericho agreement has created a precedent and many problems have been resolved in this area. However, it is true that the geographical configuration is harder for the West Bank.

[Sabatier] Will you not be obliged to settle the issue of the colonies in this stage of negotiations?

[Beilin] We will only settle this issue in the framework of the final settlement. Despite the problems, the colonies will remain in place during the interim period.

[Sabatier] What about Jerusalem? Will you talk about it earlier than planned?

[Beilin] This will be the last point to be discussed, because it is the hardest point to settle. Anyone raising the issue now will pay dearly for it. It is better to settle the easy issues first, as we have always done in the past.

[Sabatier] Last year, you mentioned the possibility of granting some form of autonomy to the inhabitants of East Jerusalem. Are you still considering that?

[Beilin] Yes, but that is a personal idea of mine. We must keep Jerusalem a united municipality, under Israeli sovereignty and the capital of Israel. However, we cannot ignore the rights of non- Jewish people. From a religious point of view, there must be free access for all denominations and arrangements to satisfy them. On the political level, the Palestinians must be granted, just like the other communities, the right to administer the zones they live in and to elect representatives to a council placed under the authority of the municipality of Jerusalem and empowered to settle day-to-day issues.

[Sabatier] What will happen to the Palestinian institutions of Jerusalem? Do you want to close the "Orient House" (LIBERATION editor's note: PLO headquarters in East Jerusalem)?

[Beilin] That depends on what the "Orient House" is. If it serves as a community center for East Jerusalem, then there is no reason to close it down. However, if it becomes the center of Palestinian authorities for the Occupied Territories, we cannot tolerate it since this would be a violation of the agreement.

[Sabatier] Will the Palestinian leaders be able to visit Jerusalem, or will they be restricted to Gaza and Jericho?

[Beilin] At the current time, anyone who does not live in Jerusalem cannot go there. However, Rabin has just said this very morning that 'Arafat has the right to come and pray in Jerusalem, as he has said he wants to do, on condition that he coordinates this visit with the Israeli authorities. This is an important statement.

[Sabatier] Has the date for 'Arafat's return to Jericho been decided on?

[Beilin] Not as far as I know.

[Sabatier] Will you accept the presence of heads of state or foreign figures in Jericho for the event?

[Beilin] If it does not cause any violence or meet with opposition, why should we prevent anyone from going to Jericho on that day? However, is it wise to make such a big deal of this return? Is it not, at the end of the day, more important to make progress in the negotiations? At the moment, everyone is talking about 'Arafat's return rather than the negotiations...

[Sabatier] Why do you thank 'Arafat is delaying?

[Beilin] I hardly ever wonder about that, and quite frankly it is not at the top of my list of questions...

Rabin Remarks on 'Arafat Visit to Jerusalem Viewed

TA2606154794 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 26 Jun 94 p B1

[Editorial: "A Turnabout in Rabin's Position"]

[Text] Up until several days ago, there was a consensus that the government, with its commitment to the principle of freedom of religion and free access to the holy sites of all religions, would prevent Yasir 'Arafat from visiting the Temple Mount (Haram al- Sharif). The prime minister's announcement, made public in two Friday afternoon newspapers, came as a surprise and created a new situation.

"As a Muslim, 'Arafat, is entitled to visit Jerusalem, just like any other Muslim. If he wishes to pray, that would be his right. There would be a problem of timing and arrangements, but in principle our reply would be positive." That is how Yitzhaq Rabin responded when asked whether he was inviting 'Arafat to visit Jerusalem. The prime minister avoided responding in the negative, and by putting the stress on 'Arafat's right—"like any other Muslim"—to worship in a place holy to the Muslims (the al-Aqsa mosque), it could be seen as an invitation. The reservations about timing and arrangements appear to be minor points compared with the positive reply in principle.

Is the prime minister so naive as to believe that the PLO leader's appearance at Haram al-Sharif would not be far more than just a religious event? We should not think he is being naive: He does not need too much imagination to foresee how 'Arafat's praying at the al-Aqsa mosque and his visit to the Dome of the Rock would have an impact on the Muslim population. They will be elated by his visit, East Jerusalem will become a PLO bastion, and the Arabs in the territories will regard Israeli permission for the visit—supposedly meant to honor the Muslim holy places—as a move toward the Israel Government's agreement to the guest's nationalist- political demands for Palestinian sovereignty in East Jerusalem. That is how Arafat's appearance, under the guise of being a Muslim pilgrim, will be seen in the Arab world as well.

Israel's commitment to freedom of access to the holy places of all religions, as expressed in the Declaration of Independence, is, of course, known to the prime minister. He is right in saying that "we cannot insist on united Jerusalem being Israel's capital without permitting freedom of access to members of other religions." But expressing a readiness to permit 'Arafat to worship on the Temple Mount at this time does not necessarily evolve from that understanding.

Has the prime minister been won over to the opinion of former adviser Jacques Neriya that 'Arafat might be offended if Israel refuses to permit him to pray on Haram al-Sharif, considering the fact that Rabin, in his Strasbourg speech, invited Mu'ammar al- Qadhdhafi to fulfill that religious decree? Did Rabin plan to permit the

PLO leader to precede the Hashemite king? In his newspaper interview, Rabin mentioned al-Qadhdhafi, President al- Asad, and the Saudi monarch, and his failure to mention the Jordanian monarch is striking in that context. Can Rabin's willingness to compromise with the PLO leader be explained by his understanding that it is impossible to keep him restricted to Jericho?

It is difficult to believe that the prime minister is unaware of the political consequences of 'Arafat's praying at the al-Aqsa mosque. What right does he have to denounce opposition spokesmen who "say that such visits (meaning Nabil Sha'th's visit, which the government prevented) put into question Israel's sovereignty over Jerusalem, which is a big mistake." Up to Friday, Rabin thought just like those leaders of the right-wing parties.

In view of the possibility that Yasir 'Arafat might be coming to pray at al-Aqsa, the attempts to restrict PLO political activities in East Jerusalem seem impractical. We can insist that "no body with a role in the Palestinian Authority will be located in Jerusalem," but if 'Arafat is permitted to come to Jerusalem's Old City, how will we be able to complain about the activities of Faysal al-Husayni and his friends?

Jerusalem Council Plans To Prevent 'Arafat Visit

TA2706151294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 27 Jun 94

[Text] The Jerusalem City Council decided on a series of measures to prevent Yasir 'Arafat's visit in the city. In a special session held this morning, the mayor and all his eight deputies decided to set up three action committees: a public relations committee, a financial committee, and a committee which would organize a huge protest campaign. Our correspondent Aviv Bushinsky reports that, among other things, the Jerusalem City Council plans to fly in protesters from overseas aboard special planes.

Rabin: Shamgar Commission Results To Be Implemented

TA2706142994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 27 Jun 94

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says that general public opinion notwithstanding, the Shamgar Commission report is harsh and includes sharp criticism on various issues, such as law enforcement in the territories. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that the prime minister told the Labor Knesset faction he considers the report as the commission's way of dealing with a complicated situation and criticizing the operation of certain systems. Rabin emphasized that the government will implement all the conclusions and recommendations, adding that the report will make it easier for him to determine prayer and security procedures in the Cave of the Patriarchs and especially to enforce the arrangements on Jewish worshipers.

Yitzhaq Rabin rejected the statement of Ari'el Sharon—without spelling out his name—that contrary to previous commissions of inquiry, the Shamgar Commission has not placed any ministerial responsibility on anybody. Rabin said that contrary to the Lebanon War, where the government made a concrete decisions to enter Beirut, the Shamgar Commission has dealt with an unpredictable event which was not initiated by the government.

Regarding the reports on Ron Arad's fate, the prime minister says Israel has considerable information regarding Ron Arad's fate up to 1989. In the past he was held by Mustafa al-Dirani who was a member of the Amal organization. He was then turned over to Hizballah and Iran. Syria could also have done more than it has on this issue. [passage omitted]

Baraq: IDF To Implement Shamgar Recommendations Fully

TA2806045094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 28 Jun 94

[Text] Speaking at a General Staff forum on the Shamgar Commission's recommendations, the chief of staff said the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will make preparations to implement the commission's conclusions speedily and fully.

Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe notes that in the wake of the commission's criticism, the IDF will soon issue orders and clarifications concerning the use of gunfire against settlers and violations of law and order in the territories by Jews.

The Cave of the Patriarchs will open only when all the security arrangements are in place and the complete separation of Jews and Arabs is assured. The IDF will maintain a guard force at the cave and bar armed worshipers from the site. IDF sources stress that Army elements had cautioned already last year that the law was not being enforced against settlers and had requested police reinforcements at the site. IDF elements stress that procedures for cooperation between the army and the police are of vital importance at this time.

Rabin, Peres Said To Differ on Autonomy Priorities

TA2806063694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 28 Jun 94

[Report by political correspondent Shlomo Raz]

[Excerpts] The Foreign Ministry and the prime minister's bureau disagree on the priorities to be pursued in the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations. While the former favors what the Declaration of Principles and the Cairo agreement term intensification [preceding word in English], the latter prefers to wait until the Gaza-Jericho autonomy has established itself.

The nature and timetable of the next stage will be decided at Rabin and Peres' upcoming summit meeting

with 'Arafat in Paris next week, when the three men will be awarded a special UNESCO prize. The occasion will be used for political talks.

The Foreign Ministry top echelons held a discussion yesterday on the next stage of negotiations. Their approach can be summed up by saying that they support accelerating the negotiations and expanding them beyond the five areas Israel is to transfer to the Palestinians. The five areas are direct taxation, health, education, tourism, and labor. The Foreign Ministry believes the Palestinians should receive additional powers in economic spheres.

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres yesterday reiterated his position that the residents of major cities in the territories should be allowed to run their lives by themselves. [passage omitted]

The prime minister's bureau has a different opinion. In Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's view, the first thing to do is to ascertain that progress is being made in Gaza and Jericho and that civilian spheres are being attended to, in addition to the already operational police force. He believes that only at that point should the next stage of negotiations be contemplated.

Peres Supports Early Empowerment in West Bank Towns

TA2806045194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 28 Jun 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres says he favors early empowerment in towns in the West Bank. In an address to the Jewish Agency's annual assembly in Jerusalem last night, Peres said the Palestinians have the right to run their own lives:

[Begin Peres recording] No, I do not see any reason why we should not go ahead with what is being called the early empowerment, particularly in the large cities like Nabulus, Ramallah. Why should we be there as their tax collectors, as their teachers? They have their own curriculum. Why should we force them to read our curriculum? I mean, the idea that their agony is not necessarily our happiness is basic.

You know, some people criticize me that while during the negotiations I agreed to give almost a passport to the Gazan people. I did not understand this criticism. What joy does it give us? There will be 800,000 people without passports. We did not want to give them ours. Why should we take away from them the right to have a passport? I never saw a person killing another person by hitting a passport on his head, but I saw a person killing because they did not have a passport. Let us be a little wise and generous. I do not see why should we not let the people to run their daily lives, though I admit I consider that the negotiations with the Palestinians over the principle of early empowerment, which means to hand over some of the responsibilities in the other parts of the territories to their hands, will be very complicated and very difficult, but we have to start and go ahead. [end recording]

Peres also said it would be useless to link the release of Palestinian prisoners to obtaining information on missing and captured Israeli soldiers. Israel believes Ron Arad is held by Iran, which opposes the peace process, Peres said. He said the government takes the matter seriously, but he added that telling the Palestinians the peace process will not continue until more information is obtained will not help, since the missing Israelis are not being held by Yasir 'Arafat.

[Begin Peres recording] We do not believe that the missing soldiers are in his hands and that the ones who have control over it are not necessarily listening to 'Arafat. So if we shall do it, we shall introduce a service against ourselves. It will be totally counterproductive. [end recording]

Sha'th: Palestinian Charter To Be Amended

TA2706165894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 27 Jun 94

[Text] The Palestinian Covenant is to be amended at the first meeting of the Palestinian Council in Gaza. This was stated this evening by Nabil Sha'th, the chief Palestinian negotiator, who was making a rare appearance on an Israel radio phone-in show. This was what Sha'th had to say in answer to a listener's question:

[Begin Sha'th recording] We have committed ourselves to the amendments of the charter. All our existing present organizations, Executive Committee, and so on, have approved these amendments, and now we are moving toward holding the Palestine National Council—which I hope will be in Gaza—so that these amendments will be made. [end recording]

And on the controversial question of the division of sovereignty and power in Jerusalem, this is how Nabil Sha'th outlined the Palestinian position:

[Begin Sha'th recording] Well, I think if we are thinking of long-term peace, real and stable peace, we must be thinking in terms of equals, and equals means two neighboring states side by side, and this means, again, sharing Palestine. But it also means sharing Jerusalem. It's not a question of being naive or not. I think people are not all yet decided about real peace. Some people think they can delay the real dividends and price of peace, and they are getting to learn gradually that this means real rights for the Palestinians, including the right of self-determination, which means if we choose a state then we have a right to live side by side in two states in peace. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1500 GMT on 27 June, reporting on Sha'th's Israel radio phone-in appearance, adds: "Dr. Nabil Sha'th said that Yasir 'Arafat has promised Yitzhaq Rabin to do his best to locate the

Israeli POW's and MIA's. To the best of his knowledge they are located in Lebanon and Syria, in areas which are not under the PLO's control. Nabil Sha'th said he is aware of the fact that this issue is traumatic to the families involved and to the entire Israeli people."

["Asked why Palestinian industrialists are refusing to cooperate with their Israeli counterparts, Sha'th said the autonomy authorities are interested in cooperating with the Israeli economy, but they do not want to depend on it, because such a dependency will eventually make things harder for the Israeli economy as well."]

Rabin on Next 2 Years in Office; Favored in Poll

TA2506102794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 25 Jun 94

[Text] Speaking to our correspondents yesterday, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that in the coming two years, the government will focus on economic and education issues. He noted that one of the goals his government has so far failed to achieve is keeping inflation under 10-percent.

According to him, the fact that the government has served half its term does not change anything with regard to the peace moves. Mr. Rabin is determined to complete his term, even with a minority government. The prime minister was reacting to a public opinion poll conducted by the statistics department of Haifa University on the occasion of the government completing a two-year term.

Those polled gave the Rabin government a performance grade of 5.3 on a scale of 10. Some 29 percent of those polled view Rabin as their preferred candidate for prime minister, 14 percent favor Netanyahu, 8 percent chose Shim'on Peres, and Hayim Ramon and Ari'el Sharon each won the support of 4 percent. The poll surveyed 650 people.

Rabin Says Economy in 'Excellent Shape'

TA2406180794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 24 Jun 94

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that as long as he is prime minister no tax will be imposed on stock market profits. I opposed such a move in the past, and I still oppose it, Rabin said. The prime minister reiterated that the stock market does not reflect the economy, which is growing. The stock exchange is not a casino but an institute for calculated investments. Our Tel Aviv economic correspondent Ya'ir Fiedel reports that Rabin said the economy is generally in excellent shape, except for certain areas, such as inflation and housing prices, which require pinpointed treatment. Rabin was addressing business leaders.

Labor Members Preparing for Primaries

TA2406145694 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 24 Jun 94 p B2

[Article by Hana Qim: "The Primaries Have Already Started"]

[Text] Two worn out phrases from the days of the Likud's war of the camps came back from oblivion last week. Remember how ministers and Knesset members [MK] used to react when asked for their camp affiliation? "There are no camps in Likud," they would say as the war of the camps raged and deals between camps flourished. "What camp I am in? The Likud camp." Now, that the political negotiations are back in the headlines, MK Eli Dayan uttered the two sentences that will from now on describe the situation of the Labor Party: "I have no group in Labor," he said. "I belong to the Labor Party group."

There are no camps in Labor, there are only "groups" or "ideological circles." Here is yet another example of the process of privatization the ruling party is undergoing. The process does not aim at promoting some ideology or supporting the peace process. It aims at pushing the person or persons heading the circle into a realistic slot on the next Knesset list:

The Ma'alot circle of MK Rafi Edri; the New Direction circle of Minister Shim'on Shetrit (who recently established a "group" named The Jerusalem Forum); Ra'anan Kohen's Re'ut circle; the Unification of Ranks circle of Shlomo Buhbut; Rafi Elul's social lobby group; Mikha Goldman's Next Generation circle; the Lamerhav circle of Shoshana Arbeli-Almozlino, members of which are 'Imanu'el Zismann and other veteran hawks; the Alternative circle of Ofir Pinhas who appeals to the party's young members; The Forum for Political and Social Thinking of Shlomo Ben-'Ami and Avigdor Ben-Gal who want to be MK's (if not ministers) in the next Knesset; the Hofit circle of Ori Or and the hawks gang; The Histadrut Forum of Pini Shumer, a member of the Rabin camp; the newly founded circle of Minister Moshe Shahal, which last week convened at the Oil Institute in Tel Aviv; and Minister Mikha Harish's Leshiluv Circle which is currently inactive, but there is reason to believe that it will soon be revived under this or other name. And there are the doves' Kefar Hayaroq and Mashov circles; Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer is expected to establish his own circle soon; and Minister Efrayim Sne already has a "group" and a "circle" is expected to be founded soon.

"You can no longer see the party from the circles and groups," MK Eli Dayan said grumpily. "I heard there are MK's who belong to several ideological circles and groups," he said. Dayan himself is indeed a living example for this: He is associated with Rafi Edri's circle, with Shim'on Shetrit's circle, the new Shlomo Buhbut circle, and may soon set up his own circle.

After Hayim Ramon quit the party, and after it transpired that Gershon Gelman [head of the Labor list of the Tel Aviv labor council who signed a local coalition agreement with Likud] can disregard Yitzhaq Rabin's directives, early preparations for the primaries for the Labor list for the next Knesset elections have begun. In an interview with Lili Galili and Amnon Abramovich for HA'ARETZ, Shim'on Peres made very frustrated comments about this. Nevertheless, Peres—with some of his men behind several of the new circles—also understands that this phenomena taking place because of the need to replace the crumbling organizational infrastructure of Labor.

In a closed meeting with members of his camp, Prime Minister Rabin described the situation thus: The main problem Labor is facing today is the fact that Histadrut employees, most of whom are party members, are about to be laid off and become unemployed. "Some 1,500 of our men are facing an economic, existential problem," he said. What is he going to do about the unemployed party activists? "Believe me," Rabin went on, "when I was defense minister I fired 3,000 people." In other words, Rabin will not find new jobs for them because Rabin, just like Ramon, no longer believes in the outdated organizational structure of the Labor Party. It can be assumed that the activists without income will join some of the groups and circles only to have something to do, and perhaps find a source of income.

"None of the groups is ideological and none of the groups is serious," said Minister 'Uzi Bar'am, who today cooperates with the Mashov and Kefar Hayaroq circles. "People want to prove they exist because the primaries' race has begun. Hayim Ramon is everybody's role model. Because he succeeded, they are trying to show the public what they are worth. All the power structures of Labor in the local labor councils and the Histadrut Executive Committee are falling apart. In this atmosphere of uncertainty, people are beginning to think about their personal future. I have even heard that some of the MK's and ministers have begun collecting funds for the primaries."

It is to be assumed that in the coming year the registrar of non- profit associations will be busy registering associations established for noble causes which will begin collecting funds from businessmen for the next Knesset race. One of those competing for the next Knesset last week said that he had contacted several businessmen asking for their contribution. The businessmen asked him whether he was in any way connected to Hayim Ramon because, they said, they have already invested in Ramon.

The next Knesset elections will take place in two years' time, but already now, some 18 months before the party primaries are held, tension could be easily felt. Minister Moshe Shahal—one of the first Laborites to speak about recognizing the Palestinians and establishing a Palestinian state, even before Yosi Beilin—today speaks about the need to "return to the center of the political map." That is to say that the primaries might not only have an impact on the frequency of appearances by politicians on TV talks shows, but also on the political process.

Opening Ties With Tunisia 'Next Month' Discussed

TA2306180894 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Text] Israel and Tunisia are discussing a possibile opening of representatior offices next month, for the first time. Our correspondent Gadi Sukenik reports that Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin left for Paris this morning for a working visit, in the course of which he will meet with the top echelons of the French Foreign Ministry. Among other things, he will try to promote the Israel-Tunisia relations. In some two weeks, Beilin will travel to Tunisia as head of the Israeli delegation for the steering committee of the multilateral peace talks. In his meetings with top Tunisian officials, he will attempt to conclude the establishment of relations, perhaps a mutual opening of interest offices.

Air Force Chief on Arad Fate, Procurement, Golan

TA2706174194 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1300 GMT 27 Jun 94

[Report on news conference by Major General Herzl Budinger, Air Force commander, on the occasion of Air Force Day by Yariv Ben-Yehuda on 27 June; place not given—italicized passages recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Ben-Yehuda] Referring to the German television report, according to which Ron Arad was held captive by Syria from 1987 to 1989, Major General Herzl Budinger said: As far as I know, their investigation is wrong, erroneous.

[Budinger] *I am a veteran participant in working and discussion teams on Ron Arad's condition and the possibility of bringing him back home, but in none of these discussions did I hear of or receive information about that possibility, and I think it is erroneous. I can say for myself that I have never received such information.*

[Ben-Yehuda] Gen. Budinger went on to say: The premises concerning Ron Arad's condition have not changed, and the odds that he is alive today are high.

[Budinger] *Pieces of information received from diverse sources, which can never be cross-checked, indicate in a very reliable way that Ron Arad is probably alive and is being kept somewhere in the Middle East—either by Iranians or by organizations controlled by Iranians.*

[Ben-Yehuda] *Is the interrogation of Mustafa al-Dirani making satisfactory progress?*

[Budinger] *It is, as far as I know. The investigation has elicited a great deal of information, which is still sensitive and cannot, therefore, be shared with the public.* [passage omitted]

[Ben-Yehuda] The chief addressed what he termed the Air Force's highly accelerated procurement process. As we all know, the first batch of F-15I, Israel's future combat aircraft, will be received in 1997. Prior to that, procurement will follow a very crowded timetable.

[Budinger] *Beginning in August 1994, the first surplus F-16's will start arriving. In September, they will be joined by Black Hawk helicopters. A few months later, the second batch of F-16's will be received, the total being some 50 aircraft. At a later stage, we will receive F-15's.*

[Ben-Yehuda] Replying to reporters' questions, Gen. Budinger addressed the possibility of withdrawal from the Golan. He said that no staff work is under way on the possibility of withdrawal from the Golan, but he confirmed that a brief discussion had been held on the possibility of handing the Americans a procurement list for the event decisions concerning the Golan are made and processes take place. Israel will seek restitution for the loss of early warning systems scattered throughout the north by acquiring equivalent systems, probably including AWACS [Airborne Warning and Command System].

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1500 GMT on 27 June adds: "Referring to regional armament, Budinger said the Air Force is monitoring the operating methods of surface-to-surface missiles being purchased by the Arab countries. Budinger said that if these missiles cause serious damage to the Israeli home front, Israel will consider striking at the enemy's home front. Budinger also said the Syrian Army has resumed its links with Russia and is continuing to purchase Russian weapons. Gen. Budinger told our correspondent Karmela Menashe that Iran is turning into the next nuclear power, and Israel cannot deal with this issue on its own—international bodies have to deal with this issue. Budinger also said that over the next few weeks the first helicopters will arrive in Gaza and Jericho. They will be mainly used by the Palestinians to convey officials between the two regions. Budinger added that an Air Force representative attends all the meetings with the Palestinians and every Palestinian flight between Gaza and Jericho will depend on Israeli approval and control. The air force commander also says that Israel and Jordan have held preliminary discussions regarding the flight of Jordanian planes through Israeli airspace. He said that if an agreement is reached on the issue, it will be possible to determine an aerial corridor without harming Israel's security."]

Air Force Pilots Fly MiG-29, Report Conclusions

TA2806074294 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 28 Jun 94

[Report by Army affairs correspondent Yariv Ben-Yehuda]

[Text] A dream came true for four Israeli pilots, including Brigadier General D., head of an Air Force division: They flew an enemy aircraft. The flights took place in an East European country about six months ago, BIT'ON HEYL HA'AVIR reveals in this week's issue. The pilots flew the MiG-29— the Arab countries' most advanced aircraft—four times, with each flight lasting approximately 20 minutes at a temperature under 0 degrees centigrade.

This unique opportunity to inspect the plane yielded several distinct conclusions. According to one of the pilots, the MiG-29 is easy to operate and maneuver and is energetic and well equipped. It has excellent radar, a very advanced detection system, and a more sophisticated throttle than that of the F-16. As for its aerodynamic performance, it definitely belongs to the state-of-the- art aircraft in the category of the F-15 and F-16.

The most important conclusion for us: The MiG-29 is incapable of reaching Israeli borders from either Iraq or Iran, although it certainly can pose a threat to Israeli aircraft attempting to reach those countries. The Air Force division head summed up: We have a clear advantage over this aircraft, but if we are forced to confront it, we may run a certain risk.

Military Tests Impact of Scud in Urban Areas

TA2706114994 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 27 Jun 94 p 17

[Report by military correspondent Arye Kiesel]

[Text] An experiment to test the impact of a Scud falling in a densely populated area was conducted for the first time yesterday in the south of the country, in cooperation with the United States.

Major General Ze'ev Livne, commander of the Home Front Command, said that the command manufactured a missile containing hundreds of kgs of explosives, similar to the Scuds owned by Syria and other Arab countries. The missile was detonated in an open training range strewn with reinforced structures.

The explosion was designed to test the efficacy of Israel's security concept with regard to the home front: the "reinforced structure," which is a thick-walled room.

The Americans who observed the experiment checked the resistance of various types of windows in light of the conclusions drawn from the World Trade Center explosion in New York, as well as for other U.S. defense components. The results of the experiment will be sent today to laboratories in the United States, and the findings will be relayed to Israel.

This joint experiment is part of a series of tests conducted over the last two years to prepare the Home Front Command.

Gen. Livne stated that 100,000 building containing "reinforced rooms" have been built to date in Israel. These buildings offer a solution to 300,000 Israelis, he said, and within five years most buildings in Israel will be similarly equipped.

Shahal Inaugurates New West Bank Police District

TA2406114894 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 24 Jun 94

[Report by Limor Ressler]

[Text] A sixth police district—the Judaea and Samaria District—was inaugurated today. It will be made up of two subdistricts: the Judaea and the Samaria subdistricts. Police Minister Shahal, who presented the rank of commander to Alex Ron, who will head the new district, said that Israel recognizes the need to deal with routine security among both the Jewish and the Arab sectors in Judaea and Samaria. Minister Shahal said that the manpower being transferred to the new district will come at the expense of the Israel Police. Border Police forces will also join the new district. The headquarters of the new Judaea and Samaria District has been set up in Ra's al-'Amud in East Jerusalem, and when Commander Alex Ron enters next week, he will find a headquarters that has already begun to operate.

Reports on Incidents of Violence Continue

Arab Shot Dead in Nabulus

TA2406163394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 24 Jun 94

[Text] An Arab youth was shot and killed during a riot in Nabulus at noon following a demonstration demanding the release of all Palestinian prisoners. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that there were similar demonstrations in other towns in the territories, and in Gaza and Jericho in the autonomy.

In Gaza, thousands today attended the funeral of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activist Nasir Faluha, who was murdered yesterday. The Palestinian police safeguarded the funeral procession. During the funeral ceremony there were calls to kill Faluha's murderer. Our correspondent Nisim Qeynan notes that the Palestinian police detained a suspect, 'Abd-al-Salam 'Alwan, a brother of a collaborator murdered several months ago by Hamas' 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam military arm.

Palestinian Suspect in Tel Aviv Murder

TA2606153394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 26 Jun 94

[Text] David Mishli, a 30-year-old resident of Tel Aviv, was killed, apparently with an iron bar, in his launderette in the Shapira neighborhood today. Police say their main suspect is Sa'idi Khalil Jabr, a Palestinian who cooperated with Israeli authorities and was given permission to live in the south Tel Aviv neighborhood. They say he had announced he would do something to return to the ranks of the Fatah organization.

Suspected Collaborator Killed in Tulkarm

TA2806044994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 28 Jun 94

[Text] In Tulkarm, masked gunmen last night shot and killed a local resident who allegedly cooperated with Israeli authorities. Two other people who were with the man were wounded. A Qol Yisra'el reporter says that the gunmen entered a house and opened fire. The army is investigating the incident.

Arab Reportedly Stabs Jew in Jerusalem

TA2806084594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 28 Jun 94

[Text] A young Jew was stabbed in the head in Jerusalem's Neve Ya'aqov neighborhood this morning, and his condition is very serious. Our correspondent Aviv Bushinsky reports that the man was repairing his car when he was suddenly stabbed by a young Arab wielding a large knife. He was sent to Hadassah-'En Kerem Hospital with head and neck injuries. The knife was found near the scene, but the Arab assailant had fled to the village of Dahiyat al-Barid.

The police have his description. He is believed to have been employed as a laborer in the Neve Ya'aqov neighborhood.

Arab Silence Over Israeli 'Massacre' Criticized

JN2806103394 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 28 Jun 94 p 21

[Editorial: "Arab Silence Over Israeli Report on the Massacre of the Age"]

[Text] We believed that this or that Arab capital would react to the report of the Israeli investigation commission on the Ibrahimi Mosque massacre, which acquitted the Israeli government, the Israeli Army, and settlers of the killing of defenseless Palestinians who were performing their Ramadan Friday prayers.

However, our belief was in vain, because the Israeli report on the massacre of the age was received with complete silence. This despite the fact that the report contains false allegations and distorted facts. It also defends the crime of the settler, who committed the crime through cooperation with members of the army, by saying that he was insane when he carried out the act.

The Israeli government is not innocent of the crime in which scores of innocent children and old men were killed. It was able, as usual, through its arrogance, to reverse facts and to charge people, who are without conscience or ethics, with writing a report which is far away from reality. Meanwhile, the Arab capitals received this report with silence, as if they approve of its contents.

Arab silence over Israeli crimes will encourage the Rabin government not only to continue its crimes but also to impose whatever it wants in the peace process. Thus, it will achieve its ambitions and reach—through the peace which it will impose by deception—what it failed to reach in its wars with the Arabs.

The Arabs must place at the top of their priorities in the peace process ending the Israeli crimes and the Israeli strategy which is based on aggression and expansion. These two items are as important as restoring the usurped Arab rights and respecting the rights of others.

The objective of establishing a lasting, just, and comprehensive peace should include the conditions that will enable the coming generations to live in security and stability. Otherwise, talk about peace will be nonsense and media uproar, which has no basis on the ground.

Al-Masri Assesses King's Trip, Negotiations

JN2706134894 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 27 Jun 94

[Excerpts] House of Representatives Speaker Tahir al-Masri has stated that His Majesty King Husayn's recent visit to Washington constitutes one of his majesty's most important visits abroad in terms of timing, content, and results both in the local and regional arenas. [passage omitted]

In a statement to the Jordanian News Agency, al-Masri added that his majesty believes that cohesion on the internal front, overcoming economic difficulties, and promoting Jordan's democratic, economic, and development march cannot be ignored in any political move and that Israel's recognition of Jordan's sovereignty over its usurped territories, as well as returning its full water rights, will be useful for our Arab brothers in their negotiations on the other tracks. If the Arab rights are recognized on their tracks—a matter that has taken place on the Jordanian track—then this principle would apply to other tracks and all aspects of Arab rights.

He also said that the House of Representatives always supports any accomplishment and policy that enables Jordan to restore its rights, promote its development, and achieve the utmost Arab coordination with the other Arab brothers in order to reach a concerted comprehensive solution.

Al-Masri added: I understand the extent of doubts and fears of many of the sons of our people, but stagnation and the lack of movement in the international arena, as well as allowing fears and points of weakness to overwhelm confidence and the points of strength in the Arab Islamic society in Jordan and abroad, will only lead to more Zionist control of the region and the international circles. Jordan's move toward negotiations and peace issues, he added, has not come in a vacuum, has not been hasty, and will, with God's help and King Husayn's wisdom, pursue this course to achieve the goals in which our loyal Jordanians believe and for which they are working.

Al-'Anani Comments on Husayn-Rabin Talks

TA2406140494 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 24 Jun 94 pp 1, 11

[Report by Washington correspondent Hayim Shibi]

[Text] "In Washington, we agreed in principle on a meeting with Rabin," Jordanian Information Minister Jawad al-'Anani said in a special interview to YEDI'OT AHARONOT, summing up King Husayn's visit to Washington.

The next move the Clinton administration would very much like to see taking place in Washington soon is a Rabin-Husayn-Clinton meeting on the White House lawn. Such an encounter would also serve to inform the Syrians that they are running out of time.

Al-'Anani, who is close to the king, willingly replied to YEDI'OT AHARONOT's questions.

[Al-'Anani] The principle has been agreed on. What is left now is to find the right date. King Husayn told his hosts that he would meet with Rabin—or with any other leader from the top Israeli Government echelons—before a peace agreement is signed. Naturally, we expect progress to be made in issues pertaining to borders, water, security, and an entire series of topics that will be discussed later.

[Shibi] Will we see Israeli ministers traveling to Amman to sign trade agreements in a year's time? Israeli civilians visiting there? Will you host the international economic conference?

[Al-'Anani] To begin with, a preparatory conference will be held in Morocco in November. That will be the dress rehearsal for the events in Amman. If the debates make quick progress, I think everything you mentioned will come to pass.

[Shibi] What message of hope can you convey to Israelis today?

[Al-'Anani] I hope the talks we are about to begin will bear fruit.

[Shibi] Will there be talks in al-'Aqabah and Elat?

[Al-'Anani] Not necessarily. We have not decided on the final venue. There are other options, and we are checking them. The meeting may be held on both sides of the border in the 'Arava, with one negotiating team on the Israeli side and another on the Jordanian.

[Shibi] Does Jordan accept Peres' formula according to which Jerusalem will be open in terms of religion but closed in the political sense?

[Al-'Anani] We have received no detailed Israeli plan, but we are encouraged by what has been said so far. We will need to receive a detailed plan, and then we will respond accordingly.

[Shibi] Are you satisfied with the aid you are about to receive from the Americans?

[Al-'Anani] We have launched a process, and we encountered great new understanding on the part of the administration. They now understand Jordan's position, they appreciate our part in the peace process, and they are willing to support us accordingly.

[Shibi] What did you get?

[Al-'Anani] We were told to submit our requests, which will be screened by the authoritative ranks in State and other departments.

[Shibi] Are you not apprehensive about the Islamic opposition in Jordan?

[Al-'Anani] Each of us—both Jordan and Israel—has its own public and constituency to deal with. [end al-'Anani]

It has been learned that Husayn asked Clinton for a $700,000 debt write-off. Clinton promised "that the request would be favorably examined."

Russian Ambassador Views Jordan-Israeli Track

JN2706135194 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1100 GMT 27 Jun 94

[Text] The Russian ambassador to Jordan has described as very constructive Jordan's role in Middle East peacemaking. Mr. Aleksandr Saltanov said the Jordanian role will contribute to pushing forward the peace process in the region.

In an interview with the Jordan News Agency, he said Jordan, under the wise leadership of his majesty the king, plays a central role in the peace process. The Russian envoy said the progress on the Jordanian-Israeli track and the talks cannot be regarded as a separate peace deal.

He said this achievement should be accompanied by progress on other tracks as well. The Russian ambassador explained that when the whole peace process began back in Madrid in 1991, it was clear that unilateral tracks were not the same as regards the depth of problems, and so, he said, it is natural that progress on each track depends on what problems it faces.

And speaking on Jordan's water rights, Mr. Saltanov stressed that the water issue is one of the most complicated problems in the Middle East. And he went on to say that solving the water resources problem and making sure that each party attains its own water rights should have priority in negotiations between Arab parties and Israel.

Al-'Anani on Readiness To Help End Yemen War

JN2306103294 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 23 Jun 94 pp 1, 21

["Exclusive" report by Kamil al-Ghazawi]

[Text] Information Minister Dr. Jawad al-'Anani has stressed Jordan's full readiness to become a positive factor in the endeavor to end Arab bloodshed in sisterly Yemen through cooperation with any Arab side or in any agreed-on arrangements because Yemen is an Arab and Islamic state. He said continued fighting in Yemen will result in a long destructive war, particularly because there are previous examples of this in the Arab world.

Asked by an AL-DUSTUR correspondent in New York about the failure of Lakhdar Brahimi, envoy of the UN secretary general to Yemen, in his mission to bring all Yemeni parties together, al-'Anani said: Jordan has always worked to safeguard the unity of sisterly Yemen, which it freely opted to do. At the beginning of the crisis, the brothers in Yemen asked His Majesty King Husayn to embark on mediation to spare Yemeni blood. This was achieved, thanks to His Majesty King Husayn's efforts, and the accord document was signed in Amman to safeguard Yemen unity.

Al-'Anani said Brahimi's mission has not ended yet, adding that he will present his report to the UN secretary

general to be discussed. Therefore, al-'Anani added, it is difficult to say that his mission has failed.

The information minister noted that Jordan supports any Arab endeavor and will attend any meeting called by the Arab League to discuss events in Yemen. He said Jordan appeals to all Yemeni parties to stop fighting and to resort to diplomacy to save Yemen from suffering and civil war. He affirmed Jordan's readiness to participate in resolving differences, provided that the fighting stops.

Senate, House Speaker Receive Yemeni Delegation

JN2506182594 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 25 Jun 94

[Text] Senate President Ahmad al-Lawzi and Speaker of the House of Representatives Tahir al-Masri today met separately at the Parliament building with a visiting Yemeni parliamentary delegation led by Deputy Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Kibsi. Details in the following report by our parliamentary affairs correspondent:

Mr. al-Lawzi told the Yemeni lawmakers that, led by His Majesty King Husayn, Jordan has sought with all sincerity to ensure a reconciliation that advanced peace and unity in Yemen in the best interests of the country's people. Jordan, he added, has carried and continues to carry the concerns and causes of the Arab nation, particularly the Palestinian cause. Al-Lawzi emphasized that His Majesty King Husayn is giving the cause of Yemen top priority. He recalled the meeting held in Amman by Yemen's leaders and representatives who signed the accord document that has won widespread support throughout the Arab world.

We have been deeply pained and distressed by the fact that no sooner had the Amman meeting ended than blood began to flow in Yemen and dialogue and understanding gave way to war, he said. The Senate speaker also recalled distressing events in Palestine, the Gulf, Lebanon, Sudan, Somalia, and elsewhere.

For his part, Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Kibsi, the head of the Yemeni delegation, emphasized that the Yemeni people understand Jordan's stand on Yemen's unity. The delegation is visiting Jordan to benefit from its rich experience in order to maintain Yemen's unity, which is held by the country's people to be their destiny. The war now raging in Yemen, he added, is not one between north and south or between the General People's Congress and the Socialist Party. It is a war pitting constitutional legitimacy against a party that has defied this legitimacy, in other words, a conflict between advocates of and deviationists from national unity. Al-Kibsi said that by sponsoring the accord document, which offered a political way out of potential hostilities, Amman lit a candle of joy. He noted that all Yemeni political forces showed up at the signing ceremony and put their signatures to the document. Every Yemeni citizen—from the far left to the far right—appreciates that Amman is anxious for Yemen to retain its unity, said al-Kibsi.

Al-Kibsi delivered a message from Mr. 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, the speaker of Yemen's House of Representatives, to Mr. al-Lawzi.

In his meeting with the Yemeni parliamentarians, al-Masri emphasized that, led by His Majesty King Husayn, Jordan headed the effort to heal the rift in Yemen. Our stance in Jordan toward fraternal Yemen is known and has not changed, al-Masri said. He said he hoped the hostilities and bloodletting would halt so that Yemen may stay united in fulfillment of the will of the country's people.

Al-Kibsi told al-Masri he appreciated and took pride in the interest Jordan's king, government, and people have taken in Yemen's unity since it was declared. He noted that as soon as differences in Yemen emerged, Jordan and King Husayn moved to smooth over these differences and then set up the meeting that saw the signing of the accord document bearing the clear fingerprints of Jordan.

Al-Kibsi handed Mr. al-Masri a message from Mr. al-Ahmar.

Al-Hindawi Meets Parliamentarians

JN2706175594 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 27 Jun 94

[Text] Acting Prime Minister Dhuqn al-Hindawi has asserted that Jordan, under the leadership of His Majesty King Husayn, placed the Yemeni issue at the top of its priorities, both before and after the pledge and accord document was reached.

During his meeting at the Prime Ministry today with the Yemeni parliamentary delegation headed by deputy Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Kibsi, al-Hindawi said that all Jordanians want a return to national dialogue and a cease-fire so that fraternal Yemen can emerge from its crisis safe and healthy and direct its energies and resources toward progress and prosperity. The Arab nation, he said, more than ever needs its sons' energies and solidarity in a world of cooperation and blocs to achieve the interests of nations and all humanity.

The acting prime minister was then briefed by the guest delegation on the current crisis in Yemen and ways of ending the infighting among the sons of the one people and returning to the unity's constitution, which was endorsed by the people, so that unified Yemen can remain an asset for the Arab nation and a factor for progress and development in it.

In a statement to journalists following the meeting, al-Kibsi said: We have accepted a cease-fire and a return to dialogue within the framework of unity. He added: It is untrue that we want to impose unity by force. Rather, we support legitimacy and the Yemeni people's will and options regarding their unity and democratic policy. He pointed out that during the meeting, Jordan stressed its

firm and principled position toward the Yemeni crisis and called for halting the infighting and returning to dialogue and negotiations.

House Speaker Gets Call From Yemeni Counterpart

JN2706175094 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 27 Jun 94

[Text] House of Representatives Speaker Tahir al-Masri has received a telephone call from Yemeni House of Representatives Speaker Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Ahmar. They exchanged views on the current situation in fraternal Yemen.

Political Parties Condemn New Peace Policy

JN2006115994 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 20 Jun 94 p 2

[Text] The deputies of the Islamic Action Front [IAF] have reiterated their principled rejection of negotiations with the Zionist enemy.

In a statement on the resumption of the Jordanian-Israeli negotiations in Washington and the agreements signed by the trilateral Jordanian-U.S.-Israeli committee, the deputies said they think the sub-agendas reached in Washington reflect a Jordanian retreat from the constant principles stressed time and again by Jordanian officials. These principles stipulate rejecting a unilateral peace, adhering to the Islamic and Arab character of Jerusalem, and the right of refugees to return to their country and territories from which they were expelled by the usurper Jews.

The statement warned against making the same mistake as the Palestinian negotiator by throwing himself into the lap of the Zionist entity. It also warned of falling into the trap of Jewish deceit.

The statement also asserted the IAF's condemnation and rejection of the approach being pursued by the Jordanian Government contrary to the attitudes of the Jordanian people, who reject all these concessions. The opinion of the Jordanian people and their representatives of the negotiations was not sought, even though these negotiations target their land, destiny, and the future of their generations.

The statement added that the agendas stemming from the meetings of the trilateral committee represent clear recognition of the Zionist entity and its right to security, stability, as well as to the region's waters, resources, and chaste land. These agendas also reflect recognition of international borders and joint maps which we teach to our sons on which the State of Israel appears. This is what the Jews have been dreaming of for thousands of years.

The Jordanian Democratic Popular Unity Party and the Jordanian People's Democratic Party, HASHD, have also issued a statement in which they said the sub-agendas divide the Security Council resolution, give Israel the right to interpret this resolution the way it wants, and abandon the principle of a comprehensive solution on the basis of land for peace, regaining the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, and the national rights of the Jordanian, Syrian, and Lebanese people in the occupied Arab territories.

The statement said these sub-agendas confirm beyond any shadow of a doubt that relinquishing sovereignty issues is continuing. This applies to waters, security, and territory. Normalization has also started by transferring the negotiations to the field without Israel making a commitment to implement Security Council Resolution 242, especially with regard to withdrawal from all the 1967-occupied territories, including Jerusalem.

The statement called for canceling the Jordanian-Israeli agenda as an indispensable step to restructure the negotiating process on foundations that truly respond to the resolutions of international legitimacy.

The statement urged the people, their institutions, and political forces to stand up to the the agreements of submission and normalization to preserve the independence and sovereignty of the country.

The Jordanian Arab Constitutional Front Party also issued a statement in which it said: At a time when we were expecting to consolidate and expand cooperation and coordination between our beloved Jordan and fraternal Syria to overcome this serious, decisive stage of the peace talks—to which the Arabs were dragged since the Madrid conference—and after their positions were weakened by the Oslo accord, the new Jordanian position to resume the Jordanian-Israeli negotiations in Washington came as a destructive turning point for the Arab position on its stronger Damascus-Amman-Beirut front.

The front said that our Jordanian people were surprised at this dangerous turning point which was peddled while the people were preoccupied with what preceded the recent cabinet reshuffle and while they were listening to their statements about further coordination and cohesion between Syria and Jordan. They, themselves, have stated that this coordination enhances the Arab negotiating stand to a level that can force the occupiers to submit to the international legitimacy resolutions and withdraw from all the occupied Arab territories.

The new stand of the Jordanian Government, whose head had led the negotiations before he assumed the premiership, constitutes an imminent threat to Jordan and the Palestinian cause and harms the cooperation and coordination between the Arab brothers in Syria and Lebanon.

The statement added that it is as ridiculous as it is lamentable to justify the Jordanian policy of rushing toward capitulation to the occupier on the pretext of fear that Jordan's role will be marginalized. What role do we fear will be marginalized, and what national rights will we save by giving in to the will of the usurpers of

Palestine and to the pressure of those who adopt two yardsticks, those whose pressure and interference are rejected and condemned even by Haiti?

Our Jordanian people are well aware that when those who flout their will and encroach on their dignity speak about Jordan's interest, they mean only their personal interests. For these people, Jordan is a plantation and not a homeland, and the Jordanians subjects and not citizens.

The Jordanian government's new policy will lead us to an inevitable national catastrophe. Jordan, in terms of people and land, has no interest in disavowing its brothers. On the contrary, its interest lies in aligning and coordinating its steps and policies with those of its brothers in Syria. The statement called on all political parties and figures, and on national groupings and institutions to decisively and courageously ward off this catastrophe to save Jordan from what is being planned for it in the dark mazes of deviation and humiliating capitulation.

In a statement it issued on the Jordanian-Israeli agreement, the central committee of Fatah-the Uprising said:

1. The agreement is in response to the Zionist-U.S. conditions and pressures on Jordan, which have escalated since the announcement of the Oslo conspiracy.

2. It is in response to the Zionist-American enemy's efforts to consolidate the liquidatory Oslo-Cairo conspiracy and to incorporate Jordan and the agent authority in Gaza and Jericho into the Zionist vital space and its security and economic program called the economic triangle. This means an official Jordanian participation in this hostile U.S.-Zionist project.

3. The agreement is a new U.S. and Zionist penetration of the Arab nation's front and has weakened and confused the opposition forces within our nation, thus facilitating separate dealings with each of Syria and Lebanon.

4. The agreement impairs and violates the nation's security and its national interests and constants, not to mention that it greatly harms the nation's present and future.

5. The agreement greatly harms the Jordanian people's political, economic, and social achievements.

6. By acknowledging the mandate borders with the Zionist entity, the Jordanian government recognizes the enemy's occupation and usurpation of Palestine, harms our people's national rights, and abandons Jerusalem's Arab affiliation.

IAF, PAAF Criticize Government Practices

JN2106174894 Amman AL-SABIL in Arabic 21-27 Jun 94 p 7

[Text] The Islamic Action Front [IAF] and the Pan-Arab Action Front [PAAF] have held a news conference in which they discussed developments in the national, Arab, and international arenas. IAF Secretary General Ishaq al-Farhan read out a joint statement issued by the two parties.

The statement expresses both parties' concern over violations of citizens' liberties, guaranteed by the noble Islamic shari'ah, safeguarded by the Constitution, and imposed by the state of democracy adopted by our people. The statement deals with the following forms of violation:

—The detention of citizens for months without being referred to civilian courts, as well as their exposure up to now to psychological and physical torture.

The statement adds: "The state organs still insist on preventing the people's deputies from visiting the prisons, particularly the General Intelligence prison, to acquaint themselves with conditions inside prisons, after reports have leaked regarding practices incompatible with man's dignity and rights.

The statement calls for an immediate release of all prisoners and for compensating them for the harm they have suffered, particularly those who were taken from schools and consequently missed their school year.

The statement also deals with restrictions imposed on the activities of political parties and their members. It says: "We feel the government does not treat the parties as national institutions established in accordance with the constitution and the law. Instead, it casts doubts on them, restricts their activity, and besieges them in order to prove that the party experience in Jordan has failed."

The statement condemns administrative officers' insistence on preventing party activities, depending on an unfair interpretation of the law. They therefore prevent receptions, festivals, and seminars in public halls and squares as if they were telling the parties not to meet over a national cause. They also watch members of some parties and press them to resign from their parties, after their memberships have become obstacles preventing their professional stability and promotions while the government shows bias toward other pro-government parties and supports the party that constantly praises it."

The statement refers to restrictions on the ulema and the educational institutions and says the government prevents them from playing the role they used to play even under martial law. The clearest example of that is that the former education minister's decision not to allow the use of school facilities during summer holidays and his cancellation of previous approvals by education directors."

The statement adds: "The schools, which were built at the expense of the people's bread, should be centers of enlightenment in the region and should be used to serve the local community through educational and social programs with the approval, help, and supervision of competent authorities. We view the education minister's decision as determination to deprive students from educational programs, chief of which are plans for students to learn the Koran by heart. This activity is conducted by the Society for the Preservation of the Koran, licensed by the Ministry of Culture, in order to compensate for the Education Ministry's failure to carry out this task."

Regarding interference concerning passports and restrictions on citizens who want to travel abroad, the statement says: "Every citizen has the right to have a passport and to travel abroad and return to the homeland."

Regarding the new government, the statement says: "Our two parties also criticize the way the government was formed under these critical circumstances." It adds: "The prime minister who was asked to reshuffle the cabinet did not consult the parties and the parliamentary blocs. Therefore, the government's makeup was intended to satisfy certain sides at the expense of the national interests. So, the number of ministers was the largest in Jordan's history. It is enough for us to know that it includes eight ministers without portfolios. We also criticize the government because its makeup is aimed at weakening the opposition in the House of Representatives by securing an additional number of deputies in order to go ahead with plans to sign a unilateral reconciliation agreement with the Zionist enemy."

The statement asks the government to convene an extraordinary session to present a statement to the House of Representatives, especially since only seven ministers have remained in the government that had received a slight majority by the House of Representatives.

The statement emphasizes the following:

1. The Palestinian people's right to practice their legitimate right to resist in order to attain their objectives of liberation, return, and sovereignty on all their homeland. Hence, any attempt to deny them this right is an aggression against a natural right, and they have the right to reject and resist it.

2. The unity of our Palestinian people is a sacred unity that should be preserved and protected from any encroachment. Hence, we consider any encroachment on the unity of the Palestinian people as prohibited and criminal.

The statement adds: "As for the Jordanian arena, after a suspension [of the peace negotiations] caused by the siege on the Gulf of Aqaba, the past two weeks witnessed unnatural acceleration that looks like a race with the Palestinian negotiator. Sub-agendas on borders, security, and water have been signed tackling details that our two parties believe represent a deviation from the so-called national constants that focussed on a comprehensive solution, the return of Jerusalem, and solving the problem of refugees.

On normalization of relations with the Zionist enemy, the statement says: The Arab regimes, including the PLO, continue normalization measures through secret and open meetings and bilateral and collective meetings. These meetings were held in several Arab countries including Egypt, Oman, Qatar, and Morocco. If what has been announced is bad, undoubtedly what is hidden is worse.

The Jordanian government has recently embarked on a major normalization step through the U.S.-Jordanian-Israeli meeting. By this step, the Jordanian government overlooked Madrid and Arab coordination with the cordon states. It relinquished its declared constants on the Palestine question, including the West Bank and holy Jerusalem, considering its problem with the enemy no more than the land the enemy occupied to the east of the river, the water problem, and the refugee problem.

The statement also speaks about the Arab and international developments, and the situation in Yemen. It says: "The Arab masses and their pan-Arab and Islamic forces had been delighted by the propensity of Yemen in the north and south toward unity, shura, and democracy, and viewed this as a manifestation of the Arab-Islamic future"

On the internal situation in Egypt, the statement says: "Our two parties have more than once expressed their concern for the violence that is going in beloved Egypt. Violence only begets violence, and we emphasized our condemnation of all sorts of violence regardless of the parties that are practicing it. We are confident that the ideal solution for the cycle of violence is through enhancing liberties, and entrenching shura and democracy."

On the siege imposed on Iraq, the statement condemns the continuation of the siege, and urged the Arab and Islamic forces and parties to do all they can to end this unjust siege, starting with the neighboring states.

It calls for more efforts to unify the position of the pan-Arab and Islamic forces on a specific program for lifting the siege and ending the harm to our people in Iraq and unleashing their capabilities in the interest of our Arab nation and the Islamic peoples.

IAF Wants Vote on Confidence in New Cabinet

JN1806081194 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 18 Jun p 12

[By a JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—The Islamic Action Front (IAF), suggesting that the government is operating without a vote of confidence from the Lower House of Parliament, has urged Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali to seek the confidence of the House on the basis of a new policy statement.

If Dr. al-Majali fails to obtain a mandate from the House, a "national unity" government representing all shades of the political spectrum should be formed, the IAF said in a statement Thursday [16 June].

The IAF said the change of more than half of members of the Cabinet in the recent reshuffle left only seven ministers who enjoy "the weak mandate" the government won from the House when it sought its confidence in December, Accordingly, the government should seek the confidence of the House anew, it said.

Criticising the government for changing the Elections Law and dissolving the 11th Parliament last year, the front charged Dr. al- Majali reshuffled the Cabinet instead of fully changing it to avoid a confidence session in the House.

The front, which has 16 deputies in the House, also charged that the government reversed an earlier decision to exclude lawmakers from the executive authority in order to win support for its drive to conclude a "surrender" treaty with Israel.

"Deputies who withheld confidence from the government of Dr. al- Majali but joined it in the reshuffle" also came under fire from the front, which questioned "how those deputies would support the policies of the government while their no confidence vote in it indicates they reject the policies?"

Deputy 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Rawabidah had cast a no confidence vote in the government, but he agreed to join it as minister for state and minister of education.

The reshuffle, which brought 18 new ministers to an expanded 31-member Cabinet, also portends the government's underestimation of the role of political parties as they were not consulted about it, said the front, whose deputies remain in the opposition.

The reshuffle also caused confusion to the House and its blocs, which were kept out of the negotiations over the reshuffle, said the front.

The front demanded that lawmakers and political parties and activists cooperate to "consolidate national unity and...prevent normalisation with the Zionist enemy."

The front also urged lawmakers to work against the "marginalisation" of the role of the House. Many deputies expressed discontent with the government for failing to consult with parliamentary blocs before introducing the reshuffle and vowed to reassert the role of the legislature in the government structure.

IAF, Others Voice Solidarity with DPRK

JN2106140194 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 21 Jun 94 p 25

[Text] Amman—AL-DUSTUR—A delegation from the Islamic Action Front [IAF] and the Pan-Arab Action Front [PAF] has visited the North Korean Embassy to deliver a message expressing their solidarity with the North Korean's resistance to the U.S. policy aimed at strangulating the northern part of Korea, controlling the Pacific Ocean, and creating appropriate circumstances for marketing old U.S. weapons in the region.

The North Korean ambassador expressed the appreciation of his embassy and government for the stand of IAF and the PAF. He stressed the firm Korean position in confronting U.S. threats.

Included in the delegation were Deputy Hamzah Mansur, spokesman for the IAF deputies bloc; Muhammad al-Zu'bi, PAF secretary general; Deputy Doctor Bassam al-'Umush; Naji 'Allush; Deputy 'Abd-al-'Aziz Jabr; Ahmad Ibrahim; and Engineer 'Ali Abu-al-Sukkar.

In a separate development, seven Jordanian parties issued a statement of solidarity with North Korea against the onslaught being waged against it.

The statement says: "Contrasting with this U.S. plotting against the DPRK concerning nuclear inspection issues is the imperialist states' full collusion and suspect silence toward the government of Israel, which is being turned into a nuclear base far away from international inspection in the Middle East. Moreover, Israel's military arsenal is constantly beefed up, thus violating the international will and peoples' interests."

The seven Jordanian parties called for a campaign of solidarity with the Korean people.

The parties that signed the statement are: The Jordanian Democratic Popular Unity Party, the Jordanian Democratic Progressive Party, the Jordanian Communist Party, the Jordanian Socialist Democratic Party, the Arab Socialist Ba'th party, the Jordanian Arab Masses Party, and the Jordanian Arab Constitutional Front Party.

No Change in West Bank School Curricula

JN2106112694 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 21 Jun 94 p 3

[Text] Amman (PETRA)—School curiccula in the occupied west Bank, including the self-rule Jericho area will continue to follow the Jordanian educational curricula while schools in Gaza Strip will follow the Egyptian system, according to Yasir 'Amr, head of the Palestine Higher Educational Department of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

"But with help from the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), there will be a gradual reconciliation between the two systems,

said Mr. 'Amr who has been appointed minister of higher education under the national Palestine authority.

In a statement Sunday [19 June], Mr. 'Amr said that the Palestinians are determined to erase the last traces of the Israeli occupation of over 27 years, and this can be achieved through an efficient educational system and in close cooperation with Jordan and Egypt.

Referring to the educational system in the occupied Arab lands, as run under the Israeli rule, Mr. 'Amr said that only 13 administrators were appointed to supervise the work of 22,000 teachers and 608,333 students in 1,500 schools.

This situation, coupled with Israel's repeated closure of schools over the past 27 years, clearly manifests Israel's disregard of the Palestinian people's right to education, said Mr. 'Amr.

"We want to retain the strongest possible ties with Jordan, and education is one of the fields in which we can achieve this end," added Mr. 'Amr.

Mr. 'Amr said his department has recently concluded agreements with UNESCO, under which the latter would finance and help carry out educational programmes in Palestinian lands, including educational radio broadcasts.

UNESCO has also agreed to set up a Palestinian centre for developing educational curricula, to be financed by the Italian government, added Mr. 'Amr.

The department has been in contact with the commissioner general of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), the Arab League Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation, as well as the Islamic Educational Scientific and cultural organisation (ISESCO) to help implement Palestinian educational plans, added, Mr. 'Amr.

Mr. 'Amr said the curricula of academic and vocational training in the West Bank and Gaza Strip is bound to be at the basis of the future of the Palestinian society.

Fadlallah Sees 'Open War' Between Islamists, U.S.

NC2806093594 Beirut AL-'AHD in Arabic 10 Jun 94 p 5

[Excerpts] Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has said there was no justification for "Israel" doing what it did last week. He expected "Israel" to plan more security and military blows. He expressed the fear that the self-rule accord could become a bridge across which the Israelis would infiltrate the Arab economy using the Palestinian factor. He affirmed that the PLO has cooperated in the security field with "Israel" since 1982 and then with European intelligence services against the Islamists.

Fadlallah made these remarks during his weekly lesson on the interpretation of the Koran. He also fielded questions from the audience. [passage omitted]

Asked about a statement by a Lebanese diplomat that the recent U.S. stance at the UN Security Council was based on the consideration that Hizballah has non-Lebanese connections, Fadlallah said: The U.S. says the Resistance is Iranian and in some cases Syrian and that it receives its instructions from abroad. Let us, for the sake of argument, accept the U.S. logic that the Resistance must be disarmed because it is not Lebanese or because it has non- Lebanese connections. The United States has not demanded the disarmament of the South Lebanese Army [SLA]. Does the SLA have Lebanese or Israeli connections? Why doesn't the United States demand its disarmament? Why does it agree that it should stay so that it will strike its people in the south and western al-Biqa' and defend "Israel?" Is the Israeli army present in the border area because it has Lebanese connections? Why doesn't the United States demand the disarmament of the Israeli army in the border area? [passage omitted]

Fadlallah emphasized that the Resistance is not a card in anyone's hand, but benefits from Syrian and Iranian support, and indicated that Afghanistan, during Soviet occupation, benefited from the support of the United States, Europe, and the Gulf states. [passage omitted]

Fadlallah said the reason the United States has adopted a negative stance toward Lebanon's complaint to the Security Council is not that the Islamic Resistance has non-Lebanese connections, but that the Islamic Resistance represents a problem for U.S. policy in the region. All the Islamists represent a problem for the United States, which is acting not only to protect "Israel," but also to protect U.S. policy in the region. Just as there is an open war between the Islamists and "Israel," there is also open war between the Islamists and the U.S. policy worldwide. This is the secret of the hostile U.S. stances.

Asked about security cooperation between the PLO and "Israel," Fadlallah said: We do not trust the PLO. We possess documents on the PLO's relationship with Israel since 1982. We know the PLO has helped European intelligence agencies and has given them a lot of information on Islamists in Lebanon and many of the opponents of Western policy in the region.

Fadlallah expressed the fear that following the Israeli-Palestinian Agreement, Palestinian officials would coordinate and cooperate with Israeli intelligence to strike at Islamists and liberation movements in the region. He also expressed the fear that the self-rule accord will become a bridge across which the Israelis will infiltrate the Arab economy using the Palestinian factor, which can be a cover for the Israeli factor. He called on the Islamists and all those who reject the PLO policy to watch this so that the Palestinians will not become a tool in "Israel's" hand to weaken the Palestinian, Arab, and Islamic stances. [passage omitted]

Hizballah Raps U.S. Policy Toward Lebanon, Hizballah

NC2806082894 Beirut AL-'AHD in Arabic 10 Jun 94 p 2

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Commenting on the U.S. stance, which is trying to abort and obstruct the attempts being made by Lebanon and other states to secure a resolution from the UN Security Council condemning "Israel" for its attacks on Lebanon, the latest of which was the savage raid on al-Biqa' on 2 June, Hizballah issued the following statement:

Following the massacre that the Zionist enemy committed against our people, who want to live in freedom and dignity, we are not surprised by the recent U.S. positions, which form a political and diplomatic shield for the enemy. The enemy's violation of the land and people; its resorting to acts of kidnapping, murder, and destruction; its breaching all international laws, norms, and charters; its pursuit of a policy of organized terrorism and brutal aggression against our nation; and its disregard for world public opinion are all the result of its feeling of impunity under the U.S. umbrella. The United States pays no attention to laws and human rights slogans when the issue concerns "Israel's" violations and attacks.

The justifications used by the U.S. Administration to prevent the condemnation of "Israel" are based on the need to continue the peace talks and to disregard anything that might obstruct or jeopardize these talks. This means releasing "Israel's" hand to commit more crimes and attacks as long as the victim has no right to complain and the international community is not obliged to condemn the aggressor. This also means the shedding of more of our blood and our people's blood on the altar of negotiations. Concern for continuing these negotiations has become a cover and a justification for the continuing and unrelenting Israeli aggression. All this is taking place under the shadow of a domineering and tyrannical U.S. policy that is persistently trying to control UN bodies and organizations including the UN General Assembly. The United States wants to use the United Nations to serve its policy and to make it an obedient tool condoning the injustice and aggression practiced by "Israel" with U.S. support and protection. The United States has disregarded all international rules and norms and has adopted a policy of double standards. This is proved by

the United States not applying the same international rules and laws on "Israel" that it firmly applies in other regions and countries.

The U.S. claim that what is taking place is between "Israel" and Hizballah and does not concern the Lebanese Government is a false claim. It can be refuted by the wonderful solidarity displayed toward the Resistance and with which Lebanon—its Government, political forces, and people, with their various groups and tendencies—responded to the Israeli crime. This proves that the Resistance has become the mecca of all Lebanon—Government, parties, and people. This Resistance is the truest expression of the entire Lebanese people's rejection of the Israeli occupation and their position, standing in one trench in confronting it and foiling its plans against the land, sovereignty, civil peace, and all the foundations of national unity among all the Lebanese.

We ask: How long will decisions be imposed on people and how long will injustice and aggression be practiced against them? How long will international political and economic organizations remain hostage to the United States such that they have become establishments and offices appended to the U.S. State Department?

Buwayz on Israeli Threats, Jordan-Israel Track

JN2406201994 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 18 Jun 94 p 14

[Interview with Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz by Rafiq Nasrallah in Beirut; date not given]

[Excerpt] [Nasrallah] The United States is said to have asked Lebanon to hold separate talks with Israel. How do you respond?

[Buwayz] The Lebanese media characteristically jump the gun on political events. To date, we have not received any invitation to restart the negotiations—neither from the United States nor from any other country. Reports about separate deals, thus, do not add up.

I think there will be a kind of dynamism which the United States will deploy both in regard to the Lebanese and Syrian files. This initiative has yet to take shape. We don't know yet whether it will it take the shape of Christopher's upcoming visit to the region or an invitation to restart the negotiations?

[Nasrallah] There has been a major development recently in the the Jordanian-Israeli track. How do you think this will impact the overall negotiations, particularly regarding Lebanon, and more especially given that southern Lebanon is on the threshold of a major Israeli military escalation. Lebanon is said to have been issued with what you might call an ultimatum through the U.S. channel.

[Buwayz] Israeli threats are nothing new as far as Lebanon is concerned. We have lived with them for many years. I can tell you for certain, however, that such ultimatums will not affect Lebanon's agenda. Lebanon has incurred a heavy price in terms of its sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity. We are not quitting half way down the road. The point I want to make is that southern Lebanon will remain in a state of tension as long as the Israeli occupation of the area remains and its people are living under coercion. Any attempts to put an end to practices [of resistance] in the south will not succeed as long as the occupation remains in place. The only way out is for Israel to start departing the south and reassuring the Lebanese that it does not covet their land or resources. Resistance in southern Lebanon is not a hobby pursued for its own sake. No one wants to die for the sake of it. Those who die are giving their souls for the sake of a cause which the they believe to be a worthy one. National resistance is the outcome rather than the cause of occupation.

[Nasrallah] Would you say that the developments in the Jordanian-Israeli track has put an end to the cordon states formula?

[Buwayz] We must see what happened on the Joran-Israel front in perspective. Let's not blow it out of all proportion. Naturally we would have liked Jordan to stay with us and committed to the Madrid formula that gave birth to the bilateral talks that took place in Washington. From our point of view, the failure of the talks to make substantive progress, especially on the Lebanese and Syrian tracks, does not warrant the relocation of the negotiations from Washington to the region. The movement of the negotiations from Washington takes them away from the spotlight of world public opinion. At the same time, the move reduces the American involvement and keeps the United States from playing its role in full. Both in form and content the Washington talks meet the requirements of the peace process.

We would have liked Jordan to remain committed along with us to the mechanism agreed to in Washington. As to the contention that Jordan has gone its own way and signed, I have yet to hear that Jordan has signed a peace treaty in the strict sense. The two sides have agreed for the talks to be moved from Washington to the Middle East, specifically to Jordan and Israel. Such a step, in our assessment, could have waited. Again, to our knowledge, Jordan has not signed a peace treaty. [passage omitted]

12 Lebanese Forces Members Charged by Military Judge

NC2706193194 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 23 Jun 94 p 5

[Text] Competent security organs have revealed that elements from the "Lebanese Forces" [LF] were behind an unspecified number of crimes that took place in Lebanon, the most important being the explosion in Tripoli's vegetable market in 1988. This explosion came after the failure to sabotage the gathering held in the city to mark the first anniversary of the assassination of former Prime Minister Rashid Karami and the explosion of vehicles in west Beirut.

Judge Joseph Mi'mari, assistant government representative to the military court, charged 12 LF members with

the following crimes: carrying out terrorist actions; detonating booby trapped vehicles in various parts of Lebanon; contacting the Israeli enemy and undergoing military training in its territories; and killing many people. The charges were made in accordance with Articles 5 and 6 of the 11/1/1948 Law, Articles 549/201, 278, and 463 of the Penal Code, and 72 weapons. [sentence as published] Most of these charges are punishable by the death sentence.

Judge Mi'mari referred the following arrested defendants to the military investigation judge: Pierre Rizq, alias Akram; Samir Abu- Yunus, George Lawun, Tony Khuri, Hasan Fawwaz, Michel Istifan, Hadi Mas'ad, George Makhluf, Hadi Sham'un, 'Azar Mukhawwal, Ghayth Zaydan, and Joseph 'Antar.

AL-SAFIR has learned that "Akram" was charged with ordering the liquidation of detained supporters of Minister Ilyas Hubayqah and throwing of their bodies on the main roads between Nahr Ibrahim, Juniyah, and Beirut. "Akram", an official in the LF security service, put those tasked with liquidating six of Hubayqah's supporters during the 27 September 1987 operation under observation to ensure that they would not hesitate in carrying out the order and hence prove their loyalty to LF leader Samir Ja'ja'.

Michel Istifan was charged with planting a device in Tripoli on the first anniversary of the assassination of Rashid Karami. When the device did not explode, he changed the detonator "so as not to waste it," as he said, and planted the device in the city's vegetable market. Many traders and pedestrians were killed in the explosion.

The others were charged with "liquidating" Lore al-Hashim and her husband when they tried to blackmail her after detonating a vehicle in the western sector of Beirut during the war.

Government Seizes Lebanese Forces' Assets

NC2706190194 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 22 Jun 94 p 8

[Excerpt] AL-SAFIR has learned that the Lebanese State has seized all the Lebanese Forces' movable and immovable assets in Lebanon. It has obtained declarations from financial and administrative officials in the Lebanese Forces that they will not use the title deeds in their possession. The assets have been sold, on paper only, to these officials on direct orders from Samir Ja'ja'.

According to available information, official inquiries are being made to track down the Lebanese Forces' assets and property abroad in preparation for requesting their seizure. [passage omitted]

Official Rejects 'Pressure' on Talks With Israel

PM2706142094 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 26 Jun 94 pp1, 4

[Report by 'Ali Nun: "Senior Syrian Official Tells AL-HAYAH: 'We See No Solution With Israel Under Any Kind of Pressure'"]

[Text] Damascus—A senior Syrian official expects U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to return to the region in August. He emphasized that Syria "did not ask Christopher not to come to the region" and that it was Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin who did that.

The same official told AL-HAYAH that "there is not a single Syrian who would accept, would be able, or would be authorized to forfeit even a single grain of the homeland's soil. President Hafiz al-Asad said that, and it applies to all times, conditions, and circumstances."

He reaffirmed that "there is a big gap between the positions of Syria and Israel" and that last time Secretary Christopher came to Damascus he did not bring "a satisfactory Israeli reply" to Syria. He emphasized that "no power on earth can force Syria to accept what it does not want.... We take a long view and we known that a conflict like the Arab-Israeli conflict cannot be settled justly and comprehensively under the pressure of any time element or any other element."

The same source said that "the right thing in the peace process on the Syrian track would be for Israel to accept the essence of the peace process, namely land for peace—the occupied territory in return for Arab peace for Israel. When Christopher last came to Damascus it was clear that Israel wanted to discuss details and secondary issues before beginning to lay down the foundations of peace on the basis of the principles agreed between the United States and the parties to the peace process. If the occupied territory—all the territory occupied during the 1967 aggression—is not returned, there can be no real and true initiation of the establishment of peace in the region or on the Syrian-Israeli track."

He said that "Israel did not give the United States its acceptance of the land-for-peace principle but played around with phrases and words to mislead world public opinion. Rabin spoke of withdrawal from the Golan and he also spoke demonstratively saying that he would opt for the dismantling of the settlements in the Golan if he had to choose between peace with Syria or the settlements in the Golan. It was clear that Rabin was working more for misinformation than for real peace in the region."

In reply to a question, he said that what Syria "wanted and still wants is a just and comprehensive peace in the region based and founded on the principles of international legitimacy and the UN resolutions. There is nothing in these principles and resolutions that gives the condemned aggressor Israel the right to keep even one single inch of the Arab territories occupied in the 1967 aggression. That is why Syria told Christopher and world public opinion that there was a big gap between the positions of Syria and Israel. Syria really and seriously wants to proceed toward the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace but Israel, through verbal and diplomatic games, wants to fulfill its aims and ambitions in the region, something it could not fulfill through its numerous wars and aggressions."

The senior Syrian official added that, in Syria's view, "the letter A of the alphabet which must be uttered before the rest of the letters of the peace alphabet can be pronounced is a declaration of Israel's agreement to fully withdraw from all the territories it occupied during the 1967 aggression, in implementation of the UN resolutions and the peace process principles. When Israel pledges full withdrawal, and in so doing opens the way for the fulfillment of the aim of the peace process, we can then move on to the question of security arrangements and then to the rest of the relevant issues to establish a full peace between Syria and Israel."

He said that President al-Asad had declared at his joint press conference with President Bill Clinton in Geneva that Syria "is prepared to sign an agreement with Israel if it accepts the equation of full peace in return for full withdrawal. Syria cannot put the cart before the horse and engage in discussions about peace and details of peace relations before the cornerstone is laid down for ending the state of war which has existed between Syria and Israel since 1948. The horse must come before the cart, and that horse is full withdrawal from all the territories occupied in 1967."

In reply to a question, he pointed out that "Syria has cooperated with the United States in the peace process since the letter sent by President al-Asad to former U.S. President Geroge Bush accepting the U.S. initiative which launched the peace process on the basis agreed by the United States and the rest of the parties concerned with the target set for that process, namely just and comprehensive peace. Damascus had repeatedly received former Secretary of State James Baker and also received Secretary Christopher, and never said that it would reject a U.S. secretary of state's visit or that it was severing contacts with Washington. What Syria wants is a peace process based on the principles agreed upon for that process leading also to the target set for that process."

In reply to another question, he said that "to this moment and to this day, Washington has not said that it has abandoned the principles agreed upon for the peace process nor the set target which is just and comprehensive peace. U.S. President Clinton has reaffirmed his adherence to the peace process and the basis and objective agreed upon. There has been nothing from the American side to indicate that it wishes to abandon that position. When Washington announced that it would play the role of full partner, that meant that it felt the process, which Israel was delaying, required more efforts in order to proceed and continue."

Hamas Leadership Reportedly Offered Base in Damascus

JN2806083094 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 27 Jun 94 p 1

[Text] AL-MAJD has learned that the Syrian leadership has offered to host the leadership of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] in Damascus and said it can stay for as long as it wants, just like other Damascus-based Palestinian opposition factions.

Informed sources said this Syrian offer was welcomed and appreciated by Hamas. The offer was made during meetings by Hamas leaders last week with a number of Syrian leaders, including Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', and Sami 'Atari, member of the Ba'th Party National Command.

The sources said the Hamas delegation—which comprised Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq, head of the Hamas Political Bureau; Ibrahim Ghawshah, Muhammad Nazzal, and Abu-Muhammad Mustafa—preferred to wait before it makes a decision until it studies the offer in the light of the future political developments, particularly the development in the Jordanian-Israeli negotiations.

Paper Says Israel Responsible for Hebron Massacre

JN2706060894 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 27 Jun 94

[From the press review]

[Text] In "An Opinion" column, TISHRIN says: The massacre at Hebron's Holy Ibrahimi Mosque was not the act of an individual. The Israeli Government and the Jewish settlement policy are fully responsible for this ugly crime, as well as all previous and subsequent crimes, against the Arabs. This is because the Israeli Government allows settlers to carry, and trains them on the use of arms under security pretexts. It also hoards them in communities inside the occupied Arab territories at the expense of the Arabs and their dignity, and fills them with hatred and rancor against the Arabs so that the settlers will support the Israeli Army in terrorizing the Palestinians and force them to leave their homes and lands.

TISHRIN adds: The continued occupation of the Arab territories and the continued presence of settlers in these territories will keep the situation in the region explosive. The crimes of settlers and the Israeli Army are the product of a single policy that is based on murder, terrorism, and expansion.

Radio: Commission Results Encourage More 'Atrocities'

JN2706151894 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 27 Jun 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: It took the Israeli state commission of enquiry that examined the Ibrahimi Mosque massacre four full months to reach a forgone conclusion. The commission found the Israeli military, Government, and settlers not guilty, and held Baruch Goldstein solely responsible for the carnage. If the not guilty verdict had been so cut and dried, why did it take the commission so long to reach its conclusion about an outrage in which Goldstein was aided and abetted by the Israeli settlers and military? We could even have guessed the exact wording in which the verdict was going to be phrased. All the crimes and massacres committed by the Israelis and their Haganah, Stern, Aragon, and Kach gangs over more than half a century have either been whitewashed or blamed on deranged individuals. We need not recount the massacres in which Israel's history abounds. Whoever wants to look at Israel's history of terror, on which Israel was founded, need only refer to UN and Security Council files. The exoneration of the Israeli Government and military from responsibility for the Hebron Massacre, all the evidence to the contrary notwithstanding, is significant in more ways than one, and carries untold risks to the Palestinian Arab people and the peace process. The commission's findings, in effect, give the go-ahead to the settlers and the Israeli military to perpetrate further atrocities against the Palestinian people. The findings make of the settlements veritable time bombs and a permanent threat looming over the Palestinian people and the entire peace process.

Israeli Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq has said that he cannot rule out a recurrence of the Hebron massacre. In effect, Baraq is encouraging settlers to commit further massacres against the Palestinians and is encouraging the Israeli military to look the other way or even participate in future outrages, just at it did in the Ibrahimi Mosque case as shown in evidence ignored by the Rabin government's report.

The Arabs cannot forget that Israel owes its existence to a string of massacres committed in Palestinian towns and villages—from Dayr Yasin, Qibya, Lod, and Ramlah, to Qafr Qasim and Sabra and Shatila, to name but a few. Systematic terror has been state policy for successive Israeli Governments. Attacks against south Lebanon and acts of piracy on land, at sea, and in the air, and the abduction of individuals are prime examples. More ominously, what Israel is doing, under the international community's very nose, is not being met with the firmness and resoluteness it deserves. Israel is thus encouraged to persist in its aggression and terror in broad daylight and to imperil the peace process and to keep the region as a flash point threatening world peace and security.

The findings of the Israeli state commission of enquiry cannot absolve the Rabin government or the Israeli military of culpability in the Ibrahimi Mosque massacre. Nor can they cut any ice with the international community. Even assuming a segment of the international community is convinced that no blame should be attached to the Rabin government or the Israeli Army in the Ibrahimi Mosque episode, it cannot but judge as terrorism Israel's acts of aggression and abductions in south Lebanon and its conduct in the Golan Heights and in the occupied Arab territories and in detention centers.

This makes the international community all the more responsible for the safety of the population in the occupied Arab territories and the success of the peace process.

Foreign Minister al-Shar' Receives Iranian Envoy

LD2706090294 Tehran IRNA in English 0817 GMT 27 Jun 94

[Text] Damascus, June 27, IRNA—The Iranian ambassador to Damascus, Mohammad Hassan Akhtari, here Sunday called on the Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and discussed bilateral issues and the current developments in the region.

Expressing his condolences over the martyrdom of scores of pilgrims in the holy shrine of Imam Reza in Mashhad, Al-Shar' condemned the savage act of bomb blast by the terrorist Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO).

Referring to friendly relations between the two countries, the Syrian foreign minister voiced his country's support for Iran's stances in all domains.

TISHRIN: Safeguarding Yemeni Unity 'Necessity'

JN2506090194 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 25 Jun 94

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "An Urgent Mission To Save the Yemeni People," TISHRIN calls for halting the Yemeni war between the two parts of Yemen. TISHRIN stresses that this great bloodshed in Yemen, accompanied by destruction, bombardment, successes, defeats, and sieges, is pushing Yemen back to the Middle Ages, leaving behind grudges and backwardness. It is a mistake to believe Yemen's problems can be resolved by military means, pressure, and coercion. These can never lead to the prosperity, advancement, and democracy sought by the people of Yemen.

TISHRIN urges everyone to heed the voice of reason and wisdom and to be aware of the dangers of a persisting war, of its regional and international repercussions, and its adverse effects on the Yemenis themselves. The paper says it is necessary to transcend trivialities and personal, selfish tendencies, for Yemen's safety and existence are being challenged and are being put to the test. Therefore, everyone must realize that only dialogue can thwart and encircle the dangers and save Yemen and its institutions from destruction, internationalization, and genocide.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: From that premise, the mission of safeguarding Yemen unity is a historic necessity in the interest of the Yemeni people and their aspirations and objectives.

Afghanistan

Government Seen Making Progress Against Militia

Radio Announcement Cites 'Victory'

LD2606162094

[Editorial Report] Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari at 1530 GMT on 26 June carries a one-minute live announcement by the "general command of Kabul City garrison."

The announcer says: "It is requested from all the units and companies stationed in Kabul city that they avoid aimless firing and manifest their happiness and the victory of the mojahedin with the shout of God is great."

Dostam Aircraft Bomb Herat

LD2606171794 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 26 Jun 94

[Text] Approximately 100 people were killed or injured yesterday during an air attack against Herat city.

A Bakhtar Information Agency correspondent reports from Herat city that two jets belonging to Dostam's militia bombed the crowded parts of Herat city yesterday. As a result, eight civilians were killed and around 90 people—including women and children—were injured.

The report adds that this savage attack occurred on the eve of a meeting of the country's governors in Herat and was an attempt to undermine this meeting. It was reported that the meeting is scheduled to be held in two days—on 28 June. In addition to the country's governors, a number of social and scientific personalities from in and out of Afghanistan will attend it. It is expected that a number of leaders of the jihadi groups will also participate.

Official on Militia's 'Defeat'

LD2606185394 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 26 Jun 94

[Excerpts] With the help of Almighty God, the strategic hill of Maranjan and the surrounding areas have been captured by the Islamic Army of Afghanistan. The army's advance continues. Maranjan Hill was captured by the mojahedin 17 hours after the conquest of Bala Hesar base.

With regard to today's conquest, an official of the Ministry of Defense said:

[Begin unidentified Defense Ministry official recording, in Dari] [Words indistinct] operation started at about 0500 by the forces of the Islamic Army from several directions: from the direction of Bala Hesar and Maiwand Wat, and [word indistinct] and Pol-e Pacha Khan. [words indistinct]

The Islamic State of Afghanistan, so far as possible, exercised forbearance in order to find a peaceful solution to Afghanistan's problems. The enemy abused this forbearance by the Islamic State of Afghanistan, and they did not avoid any crime against the people throughout this period. Only recently they planned to organize an all-out offensive against Kabul. The offensive was to be mounted by forces of Hekmatyar's and Dostam's militia. It should have taken place at this time. Luckily, the Defense Ministry forces of the Islamic State of Afghanistan foiled this offensive.

At the moment, the enemy's major bases—which were their heavy weapons bases from where they attacked the city with rockets—have been captured. A large section of Kabul City, which was abandoned by the residents, has now been liberated. We hope that the residents of the city of Kabul, who have been rendered refugees and even went to Pakistan, will be able to return to their homeland and to reside in their original homes.

The operation continued, as you know, until 1700. [words indistinct] As a result of the operation a large number of the enemy's tanks and heavy weapons have been captured. The number of prisoners, as of this moment, is more than 700. A large area was liberated, which includes the Ghazi Stadium, Kabul theater, Maranjan Hill, and the (?villages) of Qala-e Zaman Khan and Deh-e Khodaidad. [words indistinct] [end recording]

Tab-e Maranjan was captured [word indistinct] following the seizure of Bala Hesar.

During the course of an intensive air and land attack that was carried out by the forces of the Islamic State, the militia has lost the ability for confrontation. The militia's fire power was reduced notably in comparison to yesterday.

A high-ranking military official of the Islamic State of Afghanistan estimated the number of prisoners taken during the last two days at between 600 to 700; among them are 11 foreign nationals.

[Words indistinct] received reports saying that the complete clearing up of Karta-e Naw and a serious advance toward Charasiab [Hekmatyar's headquarters] continues, and the Golboddin-Dostam militia forces are fleeing. Another report says that a large area behind Tajbeg Hill has been completely conquered. [passage omitted]

The Golboddin-Dostam militia suffered a heavy defeat in the west of Kabul and has escaped. [passage omitted]

Mama Habib Modathir [word indistinct] at his command base at Darolaman Palace said: The Golboddin-Dostam militia mounted an extensive offensive on our positions last night. The militia encountered the strong resistance of the Harakat-e Eslami mojahedin and were forced to retreat. As a result of the gallant resistance of the mojahedin, a large area was retrieved from the

control of the militia. In this area are: Darolaman Palace, Mahmud Tarzi High School, the former building of the administration of the Ministry of Defense, the services section of Housing Department, Nur Hospital, the office of the deputy head of the Construction Department, [word indistinct], Sarasiab, Doghabad, Qala-e Muslim, Qala-e Qaderi, Qala-e Abas Qoli, and Asiab-e Khoshk. The advance of the jihadi forces and mojahedin toward Chilsoton and Rishkhor continues.

Modathir added: During the course of the operation, one set of BM-1 [not further identified], two tanks, hundreds of light weapons, three 83-mm artillery pieces, four medium-sized mortars, two rocket launchers, two PK machine guns, two ZK-1 machine guns, five motor vehicles, and a large quantity of arms and ammunition have been captured from the enemy as booty. During the course of this successful operation, 40 members of the Golboddin-Dostam militia were taken prisoner by the forces of the mojahedin, nine of whom were foreign mercenaries.

Sardar Mohammad, Abofazl, Mr. Alawi, Sayd Husain Husaini, Commander Sofi Safar, Commander Mohammad Anwar (?Sakhra), Commander Aziz Ahmad, Commander Sayed Ali Shah, and other commanders and mojahedin participated in the operations. [passage omitted]

It should be said with [word indistinct] that the number of losses was very small on the state's side, and observations show that the occurrence of minor incidents have been due to the carelessness of individuals. [passage omitted]

The destruction caused by the battles in Maiwand Wat [main street in Kabul] is more terrifying than any other part of Kabul. Among the ruins, only a few armed mojahedin could be seen loitering. [passage omitted]

Opposition Attack 'Foiled'

LD2606191894 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 26 Jun 94

[Text] An attack by Dostam-Golboddin's militia was foiled today in Samangan Province.

According to a report sent to the Bakhtar Information Agency by Commander Hamidullah Tabashi, at around 0600 hours today Dostam-Golboddin's militia resorted to attacking the positions of forces of the Islamic Army and Mojahedin in the regions of Yalghar, Hazhdarai, and Dunyadara. As a result of a positive defense by Mojahedin and and Islamic Army forces, their attack faced a complete defeat.

In the course of a reciprocal attack by the Mojahedin, two militia armored tanks were set ablaze and a large number militia were killed or injured.

Dostam Jet Bombs Civilians

BK2706063994 Hong Kong AFP in English 0602 GMT 27 Jun 94

[Report by Terence White]

[Text] Kabul, June 27 (AFP)—At least 10 people were killed or wounded when a jet loyal to the ex-communist Uzbek General 'Abdol Rashid Dostam bombed an east Kabul residential area early Monday [27 June], witnesses said.

The plane dropped between four and six bombs shortly before 9:00 am (0430 GMT), hitting civilian homes, the witnesses said.

"I was sitting down playing cards when suddenly there was a huge flash and an explosion," Mohammad Karim told AFP. Karim, an ex-military serviceman, who still had blood on his hands from digging out the dismembered corpse of one victim, said he thought most of the bombs dropped were in the 250-kilogram (550 pounds) range, but possibly there was one 500-kilogram (1,100 pound) monster.

In one house locals dug with shovels to rescue a man buried alive, then turned their attention to another house where two children were said to be under the rubble. Hysterical women from the bombed houses cried in the street as neighbours were packed belongings in taxis to flee the scene. [sentence as received] The final casualty toll will not be known until all the wreckage has been cleared from the bombed area.

The bombing may have been in retaliation for the loss of two strategic posts in eastern Kabul at the weekend when forces loyal to Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani captured Bala Hesar and Maranjan Hill from the coalition alliance of Dostam and Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar.

Meanwhile the rival factions in the east of the city continued to trade heavy artillery fire all morning.

'Dozens' Killed in Kabul Clashes

LD2706102294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 27 Jun 94

[Text] In continuation of the past two days' clashes around Kabul, the Afghan capital, heavy weapons fire was exchanged again today between the warring factions. According to the Central News Unit from Kabul, central areas of Kabul were the target of hundreds of rockets and several surface-to-surface missiles during today's clashes, as a result of which several buildings were destroyed, dozens of people were killed, and 276 were injured.

Army Clears More Areas of Kabul

LD2706162094 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 27 Jun 94

[Text] During the course of successful operations, the areas of Arzan-Qimat, Shina, and an important hill of the rocket brigade have been completely cleared of the Golboddin-Dostam militia. Reports received by the Bakhtar Information Agency say that these areas were conquered by the (?Islamic army) during the course of today's battles.

Similarly, in the west of Kabul, the areas of Dasht-e Khairabad, the Hassan-e Gosala bridge, and Security Zone 7 have been captured by the forces of the Islamic State. During the course of the clashes, three armored vehicles and many militia members were taken prisoner by the mojahedin, including seven foreign citizens. The prisoners were captured in the Karta-e Naw and Bini Hesar areas.

Dostam Aircraft Kills 7 in Kabul

LD2706164094 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 27 Jun 94

[Text] According to a report, the Golboddin-Dostam militia resorted to a failed attack on the positions of the Islamic Army from the direction of Kata-e Naw. They were forced to retreat after leaving 20 dead.

Sources in the Armed Forces report that Golboddin's headquarters in Charasiab was seriously damaged during air attacks by the Islamic state's jets.

According to another report, at around 0900 hours on 27 June an aircraft belonging to Dostam's militia appeared over Kabul and targeted the residential areas of Shar-e Naw and Shirpour with two bombs. As a result of this savage attack, seven Kabul city civilians were killed, 12 others were injured, and three houses were destroyed.

Militia Loses Ground Near Samangan

LD2706165894 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 27 Jun 94

[Text] During the course of a clearing up operation, mojahedin and forces of the Islamic army in Samangan Province pushed back the Golboddin-Dostam militia as far as 8 km.

One of the country's responsible security sources told the Bakhtar Information Agency that forces of the Islamic army and mojahedin cleared a large area of Samangan Province from the dirt of the militia during the course of a clearing up operation on 27 June. As a result, 10 members of the Golboddin-Dostam militia were killed, and a large amount of their light and heavy weapons have been captured as booty by the mojahedin. The report adds that the militia has completely lost its combat morale, and militia members were obliged to flee upon leaving their positions.

Latest Fighting Leaves 35 Dead

BK2806013294 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0100 GMT 28 Jun 94

[Text] According to reports, fierce fighting continues in southeast Afghanistan. A spokesman of Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar has claimed that the combined forces of Hekmatyar and General Abdol Rashid Dostam have reoccupied one out of two strategic positions in the country's southern region. Independent sources, however, have not confirmed this claim. The reports say at least 35 people have been killed and 360 others injured in the latest flare up of fighting.

Meanwhile, a meeting of the jehad leaders assessed the current situation in Afghanistan. A joint statement issued after the meeting calls for an urgent meeting of the Leadership Council to decide on the future government as the term of office of President Borhanoddin Rabbani and Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar expires today. Among those who attended the meeting include former president Professor Mojadeddi, Shaykh Asef Mohseni, Pir Seyyed Ahmad Gilani, and Maulvi Mohammad Nabi Mohammadi.

Four Groups Call For Cease-Fire

NC2806063494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 28 Jun 94

[Text] Four Afghan jihadi groups have called for an immediate and unconditional cease-fire among all the conflicting factions in Afghanistan. The Central News Unit reports from Islamabad that following their meeting in Islamabad, Mojaddedi, leader of the National Salvation Party; Mohammadi, leader of the Islamic Revolution Movement; Mohseni, leader of the Islamic Movement; and Gilani, leader of the National Movement, called for the Leadership Council to convene to examine Afghanistan's future rule.

Afghan President Rabbani's presidential term expires today.

Dostam Jets Again Target Kabul

BK2806074594 Hong Kong AFP in English 0727 GMT 28 Jun 94

[Report by Terence White]

[Text] Kabul, June 28 (AFP)—Kabul was targetted by the jets of ex-communist Uzbek General Abdol Rashid Dostam for the second successive day Tuesday [28 June], when 12 people were killed in a bombing run over the capital's centre, security troops reported.

"It is hard to estimate the exact number of killed because so many of the bodies were torn apart in the explosion," explained one security guard whose hands were caked in dry blood.

Shortly after 8:00 A.M. (0330 GMT) a Russian-made Sukhoy Su-22 jet-bomber swept over Kabul and dropped four bombs, one of which exploded in the main street outside the Central Post Office, killing at least 12 people and wounding several others. A doctor working for the French-based aid organisation Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) which supports the downtown Jamhuriat Hospital said only five victims—with light injuries—were treated after this jet attack. "No operations were necessary. All the patients were stabilised and transferred to other hospitals for further treatment," the expatriate doctor told AFP.

Not far from the CPO a second bomb ripped through the ferro-concrete roof of the state gynaecological hospital which was deserted except for eight security guards, all of whom miraculously escaped unhurt. These guards pointed out a hole at the entrance to the neighbouring Institute of Stomatology where they said a third bomb was buried unexploded.

Local witnesses reported seeing a fourth—unconfirmed—explosion further east towards Bala Hesar fortress. Bala Hesar was captured from the coalition forces of Dostam and his ally Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar Saturday [25 June] by troops loyal to President Borhanoddin Rabbani. In addition, Rabbani's rivals have lost the strategic Maranjan Hill opposite Bala Hesar, and Darulaman Palace in south Kabul, prompting retaliatory air strikes by Dostam jets.

Fighting continues on the eastern city limits but only a handful of rockets have been exchanged crashed into the city proper.

Hekmatyar, who threatened severe military consequences for Rabbani if he did not resign the presidency Tuesday [28 June], has himself suffered a massive military defeat with the loss of Bala Hesar and Maranjan. Observers said although the current frontlines reflect recent gains by pro-Rabbani forces, they are in fact only a return to the respective positions held by these rivals during their first major battle in August 1992. However, with the considerable morale and materiel loss inflicted on Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami faction and his Uzbek allies, it is not unrealistic to expect the jubilant pro-Rabbani forces to make more territorial gains.

Missiles Kill 13 in Kabul

LD2806102694 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 28 Jun 94

[Text] In line with the continuation of fighting among the involved sides in the capital of Afghanistan, Kabul city center was this morning subjected to strikes by dozens of missiles. According to a report by the Central News Desk from Kabul, the missiles landed on central parts of Kabul city and caused considerable damage, leaving at least 13 people dead and a large number wounded. The hospital sources in Kabul likewise announced that in the course of the past three days' fighting in Kabul 100 people were killed and 500 were injured.

A report by AFP states that a spokesman for the UN secretary general has announced: Within the framework of revival of the political presence of this organization in Afghanistan, a special team will visit this country. He added: Until the security situation improves in Kabul, the UN mission will be established temporarily in Jalalabad.

India

Article Criticizes U.S. Handling of NPT

BK2806100294 Bombay NAVBHARAT TIMES in Hindi 21 Jun 94 p 9

[Article by Avil Kumar Sharma: "Pakistan and the F-16 Bombers"]

[Text] The recent US proposal to hand over the second lot of 38 F-16 bombers to Pakistan without Islamabad first putting a lid on her nuclear programs and accepting the international security measures adds a new chapter in U.S. policy on the nuclear non-proliferation treaty [NPT] in South Asia. Whereas the U.S. attitude towards India is manifested by a variety of pressures and proposed sanctions that are consistent, her attitude towards Pakistan is fickle and often full of contradictions. The latest U.S. enticement of Pakistan, whose nuclear weapons program was chiefly nurtured by the feigned indifference and inactivity of the U.S., is its move to suppress and cover its despair in NPT matters by pressuring her protege.

During the cold-war, the U.S. indifference to Pakistan's nuclear arms program was only a mask. This enabled arms to be supplied continually to Afghan rebels in their uprising against the USSR- supported government of Najibollah. This was also the reason why despite the controversial information received through CIA sources, the U.S. President continued to issue "clean-chits" on Pakistan's nuclear program.

But the end of the cold-war signified a decline in the importance of Pakistan for the U.S. The result being that the White House at the end of October 1990, expressed its inability to issue such chits. Consequently, all the military aid given to Pakistan under the Pressler Amendment provisions were stopped. But contrary to even U.S. expectations, Pakistan managed to meet all its defense needs in the last four years.

It appears that Pakistan is not likely to be trapped by this U.S. enticement as she has her own problems. Even if Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto wants to, she cannot accept the U.S. proposal as Pakistan's nuclear program is in the hands of the military, with opposition leader Nawaz Sharif giving it a political color. Prime Minister Bhutto perhaps would not like to shatter the dreams of

her father Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto who launched the nuclear program under any external pressure by suspending it.

According to a report published in Washington, the U.S. would like to entice India together with Pakistan, to nab the former in her policy trap. If India agrees to sign the nuclear NPT and accepts the measures for international security proposed by the U.S., the latter might extend her the following benefits.

(1) First, the U.S. could take the initiative by resuming to supply fuel for the Tarapur Power Plant. It may be recalled that after India's peaceful nuclear testing in Pokharan in 1974, the U.S stopped supplying fuel for the plant in 1980-81 under its policy of coercion and regulation of nuclear nonproliferation. But, due to the (?determined) policy of Indira Gandhi and her followers, and France as its alternative supplier of Uranium U-235, India not only successfully ran the plant, it also did not compromise on its nuclear policy.

(2) Also, an assurance could be given to soft peddle Super 301 measures. The U.S. has all along been threatening India together with Japan and Brazil with imposing economic and trade sanctions for their prohibitive business behavior under Super 301 rules. Any U.S. decision in this regard would prove extremely important for India in her current weakened economy because one-fifth of its total exports are consumed in the U.S.

(3) With the liberalization of U.S. rules on computer imports, it may become possible for India to start exporting her latest computers. After a recent liberalization, the U.S. Department of Commerce allowed India to export computers of the level of 500 MTOPAS. If the U.S. wants, it can raise this level to 1000 MTOPAS, the limit it prescribes for other countries. India's present quota is only 125 MTOPAS.

(4) Another concession is providing complete help to Hindustan Aeronautics in manufacturing light bombers. The cessation of aid from the U.S. firm, Marin Marietta, to Indian scientists in design-development for advanced flight-control systems could prove to be a great headache. But any ban on General Electric engines by the U.S. could ground the whole program till the Kaveri engine, which is still being produced by the Gas Turbine Research Organization, is ready.

How far would these U.S. enticements to India like the F-16 bombers to Pakistan, serve U.S. economic interests? The basic idea of resuming the supply of uranium and helping in the manufacture of light bombers is to make India dependent on the U.S. On the other hand, the supplies of the most modern computers is also guided by demand. Computer technology is a monopoly of the U.S. and Japan. The aim of the relaxation of the U.S.-Japan computer monopoly is to remove hurdles in its competition with Japan, which as a result the U.S. electronics industry has so far suffered losses of $30 billion. India's increased use of computers and the huge size of its market could help compensate the U.S. favorably for this loss.

Like India and Pakistan, another victim of the economic-interest-spurred by U.S. NPT policy is North Korea. By blowing out of proportion North Korea's nuclear capability, the U.S., on one hand, has been able to make its active role in nuclear nonproliferation felt. On the other hand, by creating a atmosphere of fear in South Korea, it has activated a market for its weapons new and old. The recent supply of Patriot missiles bear testimony to this assertion. Unhappy with the U.S. decision to resume supplying F-16 bombers to Pakistan, the Republican Senator from South Dakota and the author of the Pressler Law, Gary Pressler, has perhaps rightly commented: "Instead of adopting a responsible policy on NPT in South Asia, the Clinton Administration appears to be conducting only the sale of the military arms and junk brought out from the Pentagon garage." Whether it is to restore the F-16 jets to Pakistan at the cost of Pakistan's nuclear program or frightening the South Koreans by magnifying the nuclear capability of North Korea and thus ensuring the sale of her missiles to South Korea, the only aim of U.S. policy is to use the NPT to enhance regional imbalances, and as a cover to fan the demand for traditional arms that has been dying after the end of the cold war. To the U.S. this appears to be the only way to save its arms industry, which has now fallen on bad times. To achieve this, the U.S. can go to the extent of using the nuclear nonproliferation as a weapon and it into cold storage in case it fails.

The Clinton Administration has not made a final decision on Pakistan's F-16 jets. However, the views of the Assistant State Secretary Robin Raphel in the context of the ineffectiveness of the Pressler Amendment for achieving the NPT aims indicate that the U.S. might restore its supply without any conditions, and this should cause no surprise.

If the U.S. is really worried about the increasing number of countries with nuclear capability, why does it not forgo its business ruses and attempt to set a treaty that is acceptable to all? Such a treaty should not only provide guarantees for nonnuclear countries by prohibiting the use of force by nuclear states, it should also provide for an early and systematic destruction of their nuclear arsenals.

Russia Offers 'Favorable Terms' on Combat Aircraft

BK2406095594 Delhi THE ECONOMIC TIMES in English 18 Jun 94 p 21

[Text] With the visit of Mr Fedorov, managing director of Irkutsk Aircraft production association, which manufactures the frontline Russian combat aircraft Soyuz-30, the most advanced Russian military aircraft are being offered at favourable terms.

A deal on MiGs, including sale of 30 MiG-29 fighters and upgrading MiG-21s by fitting it with an air-to-air missile, has been finalised by the two sides. It only needs to be formalised after settling the details of delivery schedules and payments.

Now Mr Fedorov has offered to sell and manufacture 20 Soyuz-30 fighter aircraft under licence by HAL [Hindustan Aeronautics Limtited]. This dovetailing will be facilitated by the ongoing collaboration between HAL and Irkutsk aircraft for production of MiG-27 aircraft in India.

However, the production of MiG-27 has to be phased out within two years. This will render the production capacity at HAL idle. It has been suggested by Mr Fedorov that the vacuum at HAL can be filled by producing Soyuz-30 under licence.

The Soyuz offer creates a new situation in which Indian air defence planners can exercise a choice by going in for the most effective fighter aircraft in line with Indian needs, while obtaining the transfer.

In obtaining the Russian set-up, the MiG and Soyuz design bureaus function independently and each has the authority to enter into sales or collaboration agreement with their foreign counter-parts. Thus, while the MiG design bureau has been finalising arrangement for MiGs with India's defence ministry, the Soyuz has now entered the scene with an offer through Irkutsk Aircraft producers, handling the manufacture and sales of Soyuz fighter planes.

Defence experts hold the Soyuz-30 to be an effective fighter aircraft capable of taking on the American F-18 fighters. While MiG-29 is lighter, and therefore more manoeuvrable, Soyuz-30 has a longer range. In terms of the Indian environment, the MiG-29's range covers Pakistani targets right up to NWEP, while Soyuz-30 could go much further.

Experts also feel that MiG-29 and Soyuz-30 could form an effective combination.

The Soyuz-30, however, is far more expensive in its maintenance costs against the MiG-29, it is stated. The pricing of the plane can be attractive, in view of the keenness of the Irkutsk to have a big deal with Indian for Soyuz 30. Attractive commercial credit is also learnt to have been offered, presumably to settle the deal during tne Prime Minister, Mr Narasimha Rao's visit to Moscow.

Prime Minister Rao's Russia Visit Previewed

No 'Shopping List' for Arms Submitted

BK2706125594 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 24 Jun 94 p 9

[Text] New Delhi—A conscious effort has got underway to downplay the defence content of the Prime Minister's visit to Russia next week, in view of heightened apprehensions both in the sub-continent and Western capitals.

Defence Ministry officials were at pains to stress on Thursday [23 June] that no shopping list for arms had been submitted to the Prime Minister. "Prime Ministers do not go around looking at fighter planes" said a senior official.

In similar vein, officials said no final decision had been taken to include Defence Secretary K.A. Nambiar in the Prime Minister's entourage. The list of officials would be finalised by June 27, that is two days before P.V. Narasimha Rao enplanes for Moscow. Working groups comprising officials from the defence ministry and the PMO [Prime Minister's Office] are currently settling the loose ends, officials said.

The change of tack follows close on the heels of reports that India and Russia were about to assume the strong defence relationship that was the centre-piece of Indo-Soviet relations. The visits of the respective service chiefs of the two countries culminating in joint naval exercises earlier this year had raised eyebrows in several capitals. The Government in fact had taken the position that the exercises were decided at the last minute following a Russian offer, but that explanation satisfied few countries in the neighbourhoods, particularly the South East Asian nations.

In addition,the renewed uncertainty over the F-16s transfer to Pakistan has its fall-out over India's responses. To this extent the tentative decision to buy 20-odd MiG 29M is being projected as part of the normal fleet renewal process, rather than as a force augmentation. In any event, the deal for the additional fighter planes is not expected to be signed during Rao's trip.

The attempt to underplay the defence angle to the Russian visit comes at a time when the hosts themselves have launched an arms hard-sell including opening up their front-line Su-30 fighter aircraft. While the Russians have turned their full sights to India in their arms marketing strategy for South Asia, the Indian defence establishment would like the Government to keep its options open.

The IAF [Indian Air Force] is keen that the Government closely examine its proposal for two more squadrons of the air superiority French Mirage 2000 as an answer to the F-16s. While the MiG-29 is basically an air defence fighter, the F-16 and the Mirage 2000 are multi-role warplanes, capable of defending air space as well as launching strikes.

The straws of a potentially significant military relationship building up from the rubble of the Soviet Union are however clearly visible, despite the Government's protestations. A joint venture deal for servicing the Mig-21 series not only operated by the IAF but other air forces in this part of the world is seen as a tactical move by both partners. Commercial interests apart, IAF would be in a better position to handle its spares problem once the Russians set up service centres here. In similar vein, their offer to set up an assembly line for production of

the Su-30 is considered significant, tactically, although there are reservations in the IAF over its integration into the fleet.

Defense 'High on the Agenda'

BK2706063294 Hong Kong AFP in English 0608 GMT 27 Jun 94

[Report by M.R. Narayan Swamy]

[Text] New Delhi, June 27 (AFP)—Defence cooperation will be high on the agenda when Indian Premier P.V. Narasimha Rao travels to Russia on Wednesday [29 June] on a trip aimed at reviving the formerly close relations between New Delhi and Moscow. Indian officials and diplomats said much of the focus of Rao's discussions with Russian leaders, including a one-to-one with President Boris Yeltsin, will be on matters relating to armaments.

The 74-year-old Rao, who holds the defence portfolio, is being accompanied by a high-powered delegation that includes Defence Secretary K.A. Nambiar.

"India has been quite dependent on Russia for defence materiel. It will be an occasion to discuss spare parts that India needs urgently," said Minister of State for External Affairs R.L. Bhatia, who will accompany Rao.

"This visit is aimed at strengthening relations with Russia," Bhatia told AFP. "India had very good relations with the former Soviet Union. But in between Russia became interested in the West.

"Now there is a feeling among Russians that they should also look to the East. As such, Rao and Yeltsin will have an opportunity to discuss bilateral and international issues."

Yeltsin received a warm welcome during a January 1993 visit to India. But the bonhomie that was building up was dealt a setback when Moscow, under US pressure, reneged on its promise to supply cryogenic rocket engines to India. Although the Russians eventually agreed to provide the engines but not the technology, the issue left a bitter taste among Indians long used to Soviet generosity.

Bhatia said Rao, who went to the United States last month, will also discuss cryogenic technology with Yeltsin during his June 29 to July 2 trip.

India was hit by an acute shortage of spare parts for its gigantic, mostly Soviet-equipped armed forces after the breakup of the communist superpower. Although shipments have resumed, the Indians want delivery speeded up. They are also eyeing a variety of Soviet weapons systems that they feel are cheaper than those in the West. These include self-propelled guns, air defence systems, the deep strike SU-30 aircraft, and a Soviet aircraft carrier. Moscow is also ready to fit state-of-the-art avionics and missiles on India's MiG-21s.

"The visit will give the necessary impetus to political, trade, economic, scientific, military and technical cooperation between the two countries," said a Russian diplomat here. "We hope the visit will prove that Russia conducts a balanced foreign policy paying equal attention to the West and the East."

Rao, who will stay in the Kremlin, will preside over the signing of half-a-dozen documents on a variety of subjects including atomic energy, Indian officials said.

"Rao's trip is very significant," said Devendra Kaushik, an Indian expert on Russia who was in Moscow last month. "In defence, we are crucial for each other. Our vested interests lie in their strength and vice versa. Collaboration in defence will be a serious input in restoring this strategic interest," he said.

India was the Soviet Union's closest non-communist ally, a relationship which clouded New Delhi's ties with the United States until the end of the Cold War but helped it cushion perceived Western pressures.

Russia wants India, which exploded a nuclear device in 1974, to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). But Bhatia said Yeltsin will be told firmly that the NPT discriminates between nuclear haves and have-nots.

Bilateral trade, which once stood at seven billion dollars, has plummeted to less than one billion dollars. Russia now insists on hard currency unlike in the past when the rupee was welcome. A Russian proposal to auction part of India's debt to the former Soviet Union and offer it at a discount to private trading institutions has led to irritants ahead of Rao's departure.

Kaushik said not everyone around Yeltsin was euphoric about India. "So it is time we concentrated on building a (pro-India) lobby there," he said, "both in the government and in opposition.

"It is time we take initiatives to build bridges with the emerging political forces in Russia. [no ending quote as received]

Rao's Entourage, Agenda Noted

BK2806033094 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 28 Jun 94

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao's, four-day visit to Moscow from tomorrow will mark a new milestone in India-Russian relations. This was stated by the Indian ambassador in Russia, Mr. Ranendra Sen, to newsmen in Moscow. He said the process had been initiated by President Yeltsin when he paid a visit to India in January last year. It will get a new impetus by the prime minister's forthcoming visit. Referring to cooperation in defense matters, Mr. Sen said there have been positive developments and the two sides are looking for a long-term cooperation in the supply and production of defense spares and equipment.

Meanwhile, officials in Moscow and New Delhi are giving final touches to several agreements and a couple of political documents to be signed during Mr. Narasimha Rao's visit. The prime minister, besides holding one-to-one talk with President Yeltsin on bilateral and international issues, will also meet many Russian leaders.

The prime minister will be accompanied by a high-level delegation which includes Union Ministers Mr. Pranab Mukherji, Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad, Mr. R. L. Bhatia and Mr. Bhvanesh Chaturvedi, and defense, finance, and foreign secretaries. Our correspondent reports that while trade and commerce will be high on the agenda, cooperation in science and technology, atomic energy, defense, and tourism will also figure prominently at the talks.

Minister Sees 'New Forms of Protectionism'

BK2506125594 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 25 Jun 94

[Text] India has called upon the developing nations for joint action to combat new forms of protectionism. The minister of state for external affairs, Mr. Salman Khurshid, said developing countries should remain especially vigilant against those measures that are sought to be promoted in the guise of social and environmental concerns. Mr. Khurshid was addressing the special meeting of G-77 [Group of 77] developing nations in New York yesterday. He said it is important for the developing countries to ensure that their major trading partners in the industrial world observe the rule of law and of free trade and competition.

Iran

Baghdad Visit Canceled Over MIA's, 'Terrorism'

PM2706110094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 25 Jun 94 p 5

[Unattributed report: "Reconciliation Endeavors Thwarted by Prisoners and Terrorism Issues; Iran Postpones Its Official Delegation's Visit to Iraq for Second Time"]

[Text] Tehran, London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—It has been decided for the second time to postpone the visit scheduled to be made to Iraq by a high-level Iranian delegation amid new indications of a crisis in relations between Baghdad and Tehran.

The Iranian delegation was supposed to go to Iraq on 11 July to arrange for Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati's visit to the Iraqi capital later the same month.

But two questions have emerged to derail reconciliation endeavors between the two countries. The first question concerns Iran's recent demand to the International Red Cross to look for more than 32,000 Iranian POW's believed to be still held in Iraqi camps. But Iraq vehemently denies these Iranian allegations, pointing out that Tehran raises this issue from time to time merely to prevent the normalization of relations between them.

However, the head of the Iranian committee entrusted with looking for missing persons says that he has "a mountain of evidence" supporting his claim that Iraq is using Iranians in compulsory work camps.

The committee's head, Mohammad 'Ali Nazran, said in a statement on Thursday [23 June] that the Red Cross "has full knowledge" of the Iranian position.

Iraq says that Iran fabricated the missing persons story "to conceal its lies during the war."

The Iraqis also claim that Iran lost in the war far more forces than the numbers stated in official statements. And that as a result, more than 32,000 killed in the war were classified as missing persons, and then later as POW's in Iraq.

The two sides have never released complete statistics of all their losses in the eight-year war. But some Western circles put the number of Iranian casualties at no less than 750,000, compared with 300,000 Iraqis.

The second question which has so far thwarted endeavors to achieve Iranian-Iraqi reconciliation concerns the terrorist actions the two sides are carrying out against one another.

At least 25 people were involved in the latest incident of this kind when a bomb exploded last Monday in Mashhad, the second largest Iranian city.

The Iranian Government holds the Mojahedi-e Khalq group, an armed opposition group supported by Iraq, responsible for the incident.

For its part, Baghdad accuses opposition Shiite groups of carrying out a number of terrorist actions in Iraq with financial and logistical support from Iran.

Envoy to UN Protests Iraqi Ship Movements

LD2806064994 Tehran IRNA in English 0636 GMT 28 Jun 94

[Text] New York, United Nations, June 28, IRNA—Iranian permanent representative to the united nations, Kamal Kharrazi, protested against illegal movements of some Iraqi vessels in the border river of Arvandrood.

In a letter to the United Nations Secretary-General Butrus Butrus-Ghali dated 24 June, the representative stressed that the Iranian authorities recently observed the "illegal movement of some vessels in Arvandrood which were wrongfully and without authorization using the flag of the Islamic Republic of Iran".

Furthermore, the letter added, during recent months, the Iranian authorities seized a number of non-Iranian ships carrying goods to Iraq through Arvandrood who were

either carrying Iranian flag without the consent of Iranian authorities or were declaring Iranian ports as their final destination.

The letter which was issued as a Security Council document, continued that "Iran has resorted to limited measures in Arvandrood in order to curb these activities which not only violate Iran's sovereignty and territorial intergrity but also the international sanctions against Iraq."

Iran held the Iraqi regime responsible for the consequences of its actions which are in violation of international law and regulations as well as the principle of good neighbourliness, it stressed.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, the letter concluded, "reaffirming its full compliance with the cease-fire established under Security Council Resolution 598 as well as its total commitment to the provisions of the treaty concerning the state frontier and neighbourly relations of 13 June 1975 and its protocols, reiterates its desire for improvement of relations with Iraq on the basis of principles of good neighbourliness and international law."

Velayati, UN Envoy Assess Tajik Talks

LD2806104094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 28 Jun 94

[Text] Mr. ['Ali Akbar] Velayati, minister of foreign affairs, and Mr. [Romero Periz] Ballon, envoy of the UN secretary general, replied to the questions raised by the journalists at a radio and televised news conference held at the end of the Tajik reconciliation talks.

Referring to the Islamic Republic of Iran's readiness to continue its efforts until the realization of peace in Tajikistan, Mr. Velayati said: The signing of the communique in Tehran should lay the foundation for the national reconciliation which is the most important part of the talks. Our country's foreign minister expressed the hope that with the signing of this communique practical steps will be taken toward the return of a just peace in Tajikistan.

Referring to the progress in talks during the past two years, Mr Ballon, the UN secretary general's envoy in the Tajik peace talks, described the signing of the Tehran communique as the most complicated and most important part of the talks. The UN secretary-general's envoy said: We hope Iran and Russia will play their basic role in achieving a permanent peace in Tajikistan by giving their continuing support for the talks.

Velayati Stance on Iranian Prisoners Criticized

NC2706094294 Tehran SALAM in Persian 16 Jun 94 p 2

[Unattributed commentary: "Minister, Hope You Are Not Feeling Weary!"—punctuation as published]

[Text] Citing our embassy's diplomats in Bonn after Foreign Minister Velayati's meeting with German officials, IRNA reports that German national Helmut Szimkus, who spied for Iraq during the imposed war and was arrested and sentenced to death, will be released soon.

It is regrettable to hear this news, which has not been refuted. It is also surprising.

While German officials are announcing their success in the imminent release of their citizen, there is no news or information citing an Iranian official on the release of innocent Iranian citizen Kazem Darabi, who has been through 60 contrived sessions of the German court and is in an extremely dire physical and psychological condition.

Looking at the foreign minister's successful diplomacy in Germany in parallel with the outcome of the deputy foreign minister's visit to Paris, we can glean everything apart from the fate of the innocent, the ordinary Iranian Foreign Ministry employee who has been in France's dreadful prisons. The Iranian official heard everything and said everything but did not express concern over the fate of his oppressed employee.

Zeyn ol-'Abedin Sarhaddi, an employee of the Iranian Embassy in Switzerland, was arrested in 1991. It is now June 1994! We still have no information on the charges brought against him and have not seen the documents the French authorities claim to have. It is precisely because of the absence of such documents and, more importantly, because of the absence of any motivation by the relative Iranian authorities that the French authorities are keeping Sarhaddi in prison under the worst psychological and physical conditions. We hope Iran will throw a morsel of bread their way so that they will show some clemency toward Sarhaddi.

What have the families and friends of Darabi and Sarhaddi done to deserve seeing the release of everyone except their dear ones, who continue to be held captive without any hope of release? Are these two people suffering for want of friends and action?

Minister, if you see the Arabs completely ignoring the vindication of the rights of Iranian citizens [taken hostage in Lebanon], you should at least do your duty toward your own ministry's employees.

In a recent interview with an afternoon newspaper after returning from Cairo, the foreign minister discussed the duties of the Foreign Ministry, saying:

"... the people definitely do not want the Foreign Ministry to just sit around and issue statements." Elsewhere the minister asked: "Do we want to betray these people? Do the people want the foreign minister and his associates to sit around and only make statements about every incident that takes place in the world without going to the scene and doing something there? The people are not satisfied with such a Foreign Ministry. The people want

the Foreign Ministry to take risks!! and go and work within the framework that has been laid down by the system. They want the Foreign Ministry and its employees not to be idle ... and, even if our interests are in the mouth of the dragon, for us to put our hand in and pull out our interests."

You can keep the risk and the dragon! Much has been said about the people's rights. We expect nothing from Mitterrand, who is now very busy with human rights issues in Bosnia and in Rwanda. But be assured that your forgotten employees are not at rest. At least issue a statement about them. This is the least the people expect!

Was it not recently that two Iranian citizens were arrested in Paris—again on false accusations—and Paris was preparing the price of a transaction when public opinion and the press were sensitized and criticized this well-known method of policing by France, thus forcing them to respect our country's public opinion and to release these two innocent people? Was it not recently that the Germans demanded that Iran use its influence with the Hammadi family so that the two hostages they were keeping would be released? And did Iran not do so? Was a promise not given to Iran and the Hammadi family that he would be released immediately? Why did this not happen? Did the esteemed president not complain about the Western press during his recent news conference and say that for the release of the American hostages in Lebanon, the Iranian hostages being kept by the Zionist regime in Lebanon have been cast into oblivion? How many times must we experience the saying "Once bitten twice shy?"

If, as claimed, public opinion on both sides is necessary to consolidate bilateral relations, the just rights of the citizens of the two sides concerned should also be considered. There should be mutual understanding between the people on both sides, who should definitely be regarded as equal! Why is this not happening?

Why is it that everyone else always supports their citizens rights—even if these rights are illegitimate and unfair—while we do not? Some even believe that our citizens' rights disturb the success of our domestic and foreign diplomacy and yet we must listen to their babblings about human rights all the time.

Here is the ball and the field. Here is the risk and the dragon. But concluding, and for the foreign minister's information as well as to remind him, we would like to recall the everlasting words of the imam, may his soul be sanctified: "Defending Islam and Hizballah is an indisputable principle of the Islamic Republic of Iran."

Investigation of Mashhad Bombing Continues

National Security Council Meets

LD2506171994 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1600 GMT 25 Jun 94

[Text] The country's Supreme National Security Council met this evening and stressed the importance of law enforcement officials continuing their activities toward achieving the quickest possible identification and capture of the criminals behind the heart-rending incident at the blessed shrine of Imam Reza—peace be upon Him—in keeping with the guidance issued by the eminent leader.

The session was attended by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and by members and high-ranking military commanders. The various dimensions of the recent horrific crime committed by the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization at the blessed shrine of the eighth imam—peace be upon Him—were examined, and law enforcement and security officials briefed the council members in this regard.

The council praised the efforts made by security officials and stressed the importance of pursuing and intensifying these efforts.

President Assails Support for MKO

LD2606101894 Tehran IRNA in English 0921 GMT 26 Jun 94

[Text] Tehran, June 26, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here Sunday [26 June] lashed out at certain countries pretending to advocate human rights and condemned their support for the terrorist Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO).

"These countries through extensive financial, propaganda and political backing support a grouplet which is involved in the bomb blast at the holy shrine of Imam Reza (as) [peace be upon him]," the president said addressing the inaugural session of the nationwide seminar on "judicairy week."

"Such countries provide the MKO with money, radio station, office and diplomatic passports and support the manifestation of terrorism and also open their gates to them," noted Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani.

The seminar is held annually to commemorate martyr Beheshti, the first chief justice in the post-revolution, who was assassinated by the MKO terrorists.

The president stressed: "We attach no importance to those countries and place no hope in them. However, we can offer the world the best type of human rights based on Islam and Islamic laws."

Referring to the progress made in the country, the president stressed that the enemies are not totally disappointed and would resort to vicious acts such as bomb blast at the holy shrine which could please no obstinate individual.

"We know our enemies and understand that the hostility and grudge they have harbored against the revolution is not because of individuals. They are scared of the Islamic movement and of the final triumph of Islam," he noted.

He called on all people to preserve their vigilance in all dimensions, adding that they should also be prepared to face more vicious propaganda because the enemies increase their brutal acts as the country progresses.

Praising the martyrs of the Islamic republic, especially martyr Beheshti, the president said that some 13 years ago when masterminds behind the bombing of the Islamic republic party's headquarters were hatching the plot, they were vainly thinking that through the bombing the Islamic republic would collapse and the way would be paved for the establishment of the type of government they were seeking for.

The president pointed to the achievements of the country in many fields and said that the Islamic system, by passing through "arduous defiles" has now reached a path rather easier to pass.

Chief justice Mohammad Yazdi, Justice Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam Shushtari and judges from throughout the country were present at the gathering.

Majles Speaker Blames U.S.

LD2606110094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 26 Jun 94

[Excerpt] The Islamic Consultative Assembly [Majles] deputies, in a statement today during an open session, condemned the bestial act of the monafeqin [Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization, MKO] in violating Muslim sanctities and bathing in blood the innocent pilgrims to the immaculate grave of His Holiness Imam Reza, peace be upon him. In their statement, the Majles deputies, criticizing the silence of international forums regarding that atrocity, call upon world parliaments to condemn the perpetrators of the crime, especially America. The statement stressed the need for swift identification and punishment of the crime's perptrators.

According to a report by our parliamentary correspondent, Majles speaker Nateq-Nuri considered the monafeqin's crime on the day of Ashura at the immaculate shrine of the Eighth Imam to stem from their despair and hopelessness regarding their future. He pointed out: Such incidents make our nation and government more united and determined in the fight with world arrogance and its mercenaries.

The Majles speaker stressed: The crime in Mashhad does not only belong to the monafeqin; they are not the only ones to be condemned. They are tools in the hands of world arrogance and all governments that somehow support the process of creating discord. The monafeqin are involved in that atrocity.

Criticizing the untrue statements made by Western authorities concerning the fight against terrorism, he added: Until the special UN committee for human rights and its representatives, including Galindo Pohl, make the Mashhad atrocity the axis of their investigation, we shall have no confidence in them. [passage omitted]

Khamene'i Criticizes Rights Groups

LD2706155694 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 27 Jun 94

[Excerpts] During a speech at a meeting this morning with judiciary officials and judges from all over the country, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the great leader of the Islamic revolution, stressed the importance of discipline and stability in the judiciary. [passage omitted]

Criticizing those organizations that advocate human rights, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i said: Those who burned alive dozens of people last year and followed an overt racist policy in their countries do not have the right to utter the words human rights from their filthy mouths and expect the observance of human rights from others.

The leader of the Islamic revolution admonished the world forums and committees that advocate human rights for their silence regarding one of the greatest terrorist tragedies. He said: Those so-called human rights committees and forums, which have brought politics into everything, have turned a blind eye to that great terrorist tragedy at the shrine of Imam Reza—peace be upon him—and have not said a word about it. Those who are constantly saying that the greatest threat to the world today is terrorism have kept silent about the 'Ashura tragedy in Mashhad. Therefore, what right do they have to meddle in matters relating to the observance of human rights in other countries. [passage omitted]

Emami-Kashani Sermons Condemn Terrorism

LD2406100694 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 24 Jun 94

[Text] In his sermons today, Ayatollah Emami-Kashani, the acting Friday prayer leader of Tehran, set out to analyze the characteristics of the hypocritical elements responsible for the bomb blast in the shrine of Imam Reza, peace be upon him.

He said: This savage act was in fact a declaration of war against Islam, and those who have no respect whatsoever for the status of the family of the prophet undoubtedly adhere to no doctrine or school of thought.

The acting Friday prayer leader of Tehran added: The perpetrators of such acts should know that such crimes will lead to nothing but the further consolidation of the revolution's foundations. Moreover, such acts draw the attention of Muslims and the followers of other divine religions to the scared notions of Islam.

Ayatollah Emami-Kashani described the terrorist actions of the Monafeqin throughout the history of the Islamic revolution. He then commemorated the martyrs of 7 Tir [bomb blast in Islamic Republic Party on 28 June 1981], of Mashhad'a 'Ashura [bomb blast on 20 June 1994], and the other martyrs of the revolution. He

said: The recent act by the Monafeqin was condemned in many countries. However, mere condemnation of these savage acts, by Islamic communities and Shiite and Sunni scholars is not enough, and the Islamic world has a duty to react against such crimes.

Further on Emami-Kashani Prayers

LD2406132194 Tehran IRNA in English 1237 GMT 24 Jun 94

[Text] Tehran, June 24, IRNA—Provisional leader of the Friday congregational prayers in Tehran, Ayatollah Mohammad Emami-Kashani, here today termed the bomb blast at the mausoleum of Imam Reza (as) [peace be upon him] in Mashhad on Monday [20 June] "a criminal act" and "a war against Islam."

"If the house of Ka'ba or the mausoleum of prophet (pbuh) [peace be upon him] were in Iran, the criminals would not hesitate to commit such crimes against those holy places as well," Ayatollah Kashani told the congregation of worshippers gathered at Tehran University campus. The provisional leader of the Friday congregational prayers underlined that many traditions exist about the prophet's blessed household (ahlulbeit) which stipulate that those who are hostile towards the prophet's household, are not following any of the Islamic sects. He said that those who committed this crime were in complete darkness and that they were incapable of having any human feeling.

Ayatollah Kashani went on to add that the emergence of the Islamic resurgence in the world could explain why such acts of terror were committed against Islam and Muslims.

Referring to the enemies of worldwide Islamic movement, he said that "they had also shown their unhappiness with Islam through explosions and acts of terrorism that they committed prior to this last incident, (and now) they are hiring those who are mentally and emotionally slaves and those who are poor in spirit."

Ayatollah Kashani added that the more horrible the crime, the more effect it will have on helping the growth of political consciousness of the people. "The more horrendous the crime, the more the people's growth and falsehood will gain nothing but misery," he said.

He then addressed the Muslim nations, asking them to condemn this crime. "This tragedy is an insult to the divinely sanctified areas, this is a terrorist conspiracy to destabilize the (Muslim) countries. Not only Iran, but also the whole Muslim world, should condemn this horrifying crime," he said.

Ayatollah Kashani then invited both Christians and Jews, respectfully known in Islam as the people of the book, to condemn this crime. "Of course the Islamic institutions, both Sunni and Shia, have condemned this crime and this is not sufficient. The whole Muslim world and also the people of the book should come out and condemn this act."

He also lambasted the world bodies for keeping mum on this crime. "The world bodies that always make hue and cry over human rights should ask themselves why the paid mercenaries of the world arrogance have committed such a terrible crime," he added.

Paper Hits Hashemi-Rafsanjani Remarks on U.S. Products

NC2306211394 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 9 Jun 94 p 2

[Commentary by Hoseyn Shari'atmadari: "A Word With the Orator"]

[Text] In this commentary we do not want to discuss the unjustified imports of American goods into Islamic Iran or whether they should or should not be imported, because we discussed this issue following Majles Speaker Nateq-Nuri's remarks on 28 May, and stated that our firm belief is that allowing the importation of American goods is, first, an insult to the noble and Muslim Iranian nation and to all those who gave their lives to free our homeland from American domination.

Second, it turns us into a toy in the hands of American plundering murderers who, because of the fact that Islam rules in Iran—and only because of this—are, in addition to their numerous hostilities, overtly preventing the export of advanced technology to this Islamic country and are also threatening and intimidating the other industrial countries to prevent them from doing so. But at the same time they are trying—very magnanimously!—to find a way into our unfortunately weak markets by exporting various brands of American cigarettes, soft drinks, candy, chewing gum, chips, lollipops, and other unnecessary items.

Third, the sacred system of the Islamic Republic is considered to be the standard-bearer in the fight against the world hegemonists. And in the full-fledged campaign that has recently been carried out in various parts of the world of Islam against the aggressors headed by America, the deprived and oppressed nations follow the pattern of victorious resistance by the Islamic Iranian nation in their sacred jihad. Thus, the importation of American products only helps to mar this sacred pattern.

We believe that, for America, this part of the charade which it has started is more important than the other parts, in the sense that on the one hand it prevents the exporting of advanced technology from the industrial world to Iran, thus slowing down the progress of this Islamic country and, on the other, by exporting chewing gum, cigarettes, candy, lollipops, chips, and other such items, it puts up the false "representational sign" in our Islamic country. But even though this "sign" is false, other nations who have turned their eyes to Islamic Iran in their anti-American struggles are starting to doubt whether they should "tread" the same path that our Muslim people have taken. We believe that the boycotting of American products by the late imam, may his soul be sanctified, was meant, first and foremost, to maintain the dividing line that separates us from

America and to state to the world of Islam that the enmity that the great satan has toward Islam, the Muslims, and the deprived people will never be forgotten in history.

We can go on and on in discussing this topic. But in this commentary we want to discuss another issue. And that is that in his news conference with domestic and foreign correspondents—the text of which was carried by the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran—esteemed President Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani stated in answer to a question put to him by a KEYHAN-E HAVA'I correspondent on why some of the esteemed officials of the system are not very keen on being interviewed by domestic correspondents: "This should not be so. All the ministers are ready to give the necessary explanations, each in his own sector." This is very encouraging and will help to clarify the ambiguities spread by our enemies about the policies of the sacred system of the Islamic Republic and of its caring officials in the same way that the esteemed president's news conference played an outstanding and effective role to this effect.

But in another part of his news conference, Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani stated in answer to a KEYHAN correspondent that some American goods should be imported for some of the country's industrial needs, such as spare parts for factories and aircraft which have been mostly manufactured in the United States; and then he asked the KEYHAN correspondent: "Are you suggesting that we should stop all this?" And when the KEYHAN correspondent explained that he was speaking metaphorically and referring to products such as Coca Cola, which is a good example of an unnecessary commodity—as a symbol of foreign presence—the esteemed president stated: "In my opinion, that symbolism is somewhat common."

In view of the outstanding Islamic and revolutionary personality of the esteemed president, who was one of the backbones of the revolution and one of the closest and most devoted and committed companions of his eminence the imam, may his soul be sanctified, and of the leader of the revolution, we consider it our duty to refer to the question by the KEYHAN correspondent, whose remarks were left incomplete in the recent news conference, and to point out that the reason why Coca Cola was cited as an example of an unnecessary item is that unfortunately without any justification, an extensive advertising campaign is continuing in our markets with posters on city walls for unnecessary items such as American cigarettes and so on. And while we do not believe that looking at American products from this angle is a "common" issue, we firmly believe that had the esteemed president paid closer attention to what our correspondent meant with his question, he would have agreed with our point of view, since in his news conference the topic of vigilance and alertness toward American ploys were clearly visible.

Another point is that in view of Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani's remarks in answer to the question put to him by the KEYHAN-E HAVA'I correspondent on the need for the esteemed ministers and officials of the Islamic system to speak with the press in order to clarify ambiguities, it is feared that in justifying their lack of attention to some questions by the correspondents, the esteemed officials will avoid answering by alleging that these questions are "common!"

Deputy Trade Minister on Increased Oil Exports

LD2606113594 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 26 Jun 94

[Text] More than 754,000 tonnes of goods, valued at $538 million have been exported during the first two months of the current year [year beginning 21 March]. Despite a reduction in weight compared with a similar period last year, the value of the exports shows an increase of over 4 percent.

The deputy for the Trade Ministry and the director general of the center for the expansion of exports, in an interview with correspondents today, also added: Non-oil exports last year [year beginning 21 March 1993] were valued at more than $3.8 billion. It is forecast that in the current year that figure will rise to over $6 billion through increased state export capability.

Trade ministry deputy Mr Sa'idlu added: Current exports by the Islamic Republic of Iran to Islamic countries increased ten-fold compared with those before the revolution. Imports from those countries also rose from $380 million to $3.2 billion.

The director general of Iran's center for expansion of exports said: The Fifth Islamic Trade Fair will be held in Tehran beginning 25 Tir [16 July] with the participation of Islamic states and the cooperation of the Islamic Conference Organization for the purpose of expanding cooperation and the axis of unity, fraternity, and trade.

Amphibious Exercise Successfully Concluded

LD2306103294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 23 Jun 94

[Text] The amphibious Zafar-1 joint military exercise, which started in Persian Gulf waters and the strategic Strait of Hormoz on 30 Khordad [20 June], was concluded successfully today.

Light and heavy vessels, fast assault boats, rangers, and commandoes of the Armed Forces and the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps, and a number of fighter-bombers of the Islamic Republic Air Force took part in the exercise.

Operations were carried out in six phases, involving the control of communication routes and navy equipment;

dispatching units of light vessels; air and surface bombardment of communication routes, vital positions, and installations of an imaginary enemy; reconnaissance and mine-sweeping operations by special teams; and capturing the positions and sea rescue operations of the vessels of the imaginary enemy.

The Zafar-1 maneuver is one of a series of joint annual exercises of the Armed Forces and the Guards Corps, aimed at raising defensive capabilities and exchanging experience and military know-how.

Pakistan

Unidentified Gunmen Kill 6 Police Officers

BK2806112894 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 28 Jun 94

[Text] Six policemen were killed in firing by some unknown gunmen in Karachi today. Police sources say the party was on a round when they were attacked.

[Hong Kong AFP in English at 0952 GMT on 28 June in a Karachi-datelined report adds: "Unidentified gunmen opened fire on a mobile police squad in this southern Pakistani port city Tuesday [28 June], killing six policemen including a senior officer, police said.

["The incident occured near the office of the chief of the city's administration. The assailants drove up to the police van before opening fire killing all six officers on the spot. The car they used had been stolen only a few minutes before, police said.

["Police said the deceased senior officer, identified as Bahadur Ali, was investigating several cases against the ethnic based Muhajir Qaumi Movement (MQM), but added that any comment on motives at this stage would be premature."]

Leghari Says Nation Supports Nonproliferation

BK2406135494 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 24 Jun 94 p 1

[Report by Muhammad Ismail]

[Text] Islamabad—President Sardar Farooq Ahmed Khan Leghari Thursday [23 June] said the criticism of national institutions like armed forces and judiciary by the opposition leaders was "most unfortunate".

Responding to journalists questions at the inaugural function of Nathiagali Summer College here, the president said armed forces fully knew their responsibilities which they were fulfilling in accordance with the constitution and democratic system.

The president was happy with the role being played by the armed forces. When a journalist said that those elements criticising the armed forces wanted army's interference in politics, Leghari dispelled such impression saying "there was no danger of any such interference."

Asked about the need for a new legislation to check the criticism of the national institutions, including the armed forces, the president said: "Though the criticism was unfortunate but there are sufficient laws to deal with such criticism. However, if the government and legislators feel the need of more legislation, they can do the same" he pointed out.

The president said continued dialogue between the opposition and government were a must for the functioning of the democratic system. Leghari said in his capacity as the president of Pakistan. It was his duty to help create harmony between the opposition and government. "It is important for democratic system to function. There should be dialogue between the government and opposition all the times", the president said adding "it will be his endeavour to create conditions to enable the democratic process to function.

When reminded of the increased Indian defence budget, the president said: "we are also meeting Pakistan's defence needs".

Asked about the Indian's alleged plan of a "limited war" against Pakistan, the president said: "Armed forces, government and people of Pakistan are fully capable of defending their motherland". "We know how to defend our country and our forces are fully capable to safeguard our frontiers", he concluded.

Earlier, inaugurating the 19th International Nathiagali Summer College on physics and contemporary needs, the president said the freedom of thought and expression was a must for the promotion of science. A democratic order which guarantees freedom, provides a fertile soil for nurturing of science, he added. Repressive societies are not only intolerant of new ideas but in fact force creative minds to seek refugee in free societies which are more congenial and receptive to new ideas and initiatives, he added. He urged the scientists to strive to set up liberal and democratic traditions to discuss and debate the economic and technological problems facing the country and work out strategies to put Pakistan on a path of accelerated technological development. The president said systematic dialogue between leading scientists, technological experts, academicians and government functionaries had been initiated by him at the presidency and that he himself participated in the discussion.

Nuclear programme: The president said Pakistan would continue to pursue its peaceful nuclear programme. "We are against nuclear proliferation and have no intention to develop nuclear weapons. Our government is firmly committed to establishing an equitable, non-discriminatory and non-proliferation regime in South Asia. Leghari said Pakistan had put forward several proposals for NPT in the South Asia but unfortunately

India had not responded positively. "Pakistan will welcome and cooperate on any future proposal but its security concerns must be taken into account," he added.

The president said Pakistan's nuclear programme was designed to help improve living standards of our people. We are in the process of setting up a major nuclear-based power plant at Chashma with the Chinese help. We will like to set up more nuclear power plants under IAEA safeguards, he added.

Leghari said Pakistan was determined to press into service science and technology to make progress and provide reasonable living standards to its people. For this purpose he said, the government had doubled the allocation for science and increased the education budget by 45 percent. But this is not sufficient and more resources will have to be diverted for human resource development, he maintained.

Earlier, Dr. Ishfaq Ahmed, chairman of Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission presented the address of welcome.

U.S. Said To Export 'Poisonous Foodstuff'

BK2406135094 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 24 Jun 94 p 6

[Editorial: "Dealing in Death"]

[Text] In their blind passion to make money, the Americans seem to have forgotten all norms of decency. They can go to any extent. The recent export of contaminated fertilisers to Bangladesh was not just an isolated incident or a mistake. The shipment which was returned by the Bangladesh authorities, was sent by a company quite notorious for such acts of covertly flouting international rules. It is not only the company which is responsible for exporting the deadly cargo to Bangladesh but the US government is also to be blamed. The role of the United States government in exporting poisonous food stuff and fertilisers can lead the people of this part of the world to believe that Washington deals in only death either by arms or by having the people use poisonous materials.

It is not a secret that food stuff and fertilisers are subjected to thorough checking before they are allowed to be marketed in the United States. The Food and Drug Administration of the United States boasts of very high standards in making sure that only those goods reach the shelf which are fit for human consumption. But the same standards are not applied to the goods which are destined for a Third World country. In fact every thing that is considered unfit for an American to consumer is allowed to be exported to Asia, Africa and South America. Does not this amount to killing innocent and poor people of these countries? What else can this lead us to believe? Killing seems to be part of the American way of life.

It is however astonishing that rulers in these parts of the world always remain oblivious to such criminal acts of the West. The US is not the only country engaged in this dirty business of exporting the rejected goods to the Third World. Recently a Danish company sold an environmentally hazardous plant to a Pakistan firm. But no action was taken by the Pakistani government. Technology is very important for development, but we must not allow the technological advanced countries to play havoc with our lives. These companies need to be blacklisted for any business with Pakistan. The government must remain alive to its duty of protecting the lives of its citizens. We cannot blame the Danish company for selling us a plant processing chlorine which has been built according to environmental specifications of the 1950s. It is we who are at fault. While buying the machinery the Pakistani firm have saved some money but it has certainly put many Pakistani lives at risk. It is the duty of the government to look into the matter and have the firm close down this factory. Such companies must also be punished for violating the environmental protection regulations.

The government of Pakistan needs to learn from the erstwhile East Pakistan, now Bangladesh, which promptly checked the consignment of contaminated fertiliser and sent it back to its country of origin. That is what the government of Pakistan must do.

Chambers of Commerce Members Strike Over Budget

Bhutto Issues Statement

BK2506161594 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 25 Jun 94

[Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has urged the business community to keep the national interest uppermost and not to go on strike. The government's door for negotiations is open. They should talk to the minister of state for finance to remove differences, doubts, and suspicion as he is in charge of the budget. Talking to newsmen in Islamabad today, the prime minister said the people's government does not want to burden the poor and the middle class and it is for this reasons that taxes have been imposed on the upper class. She said the business community should take into account various incentives and concessions given in the budget. In this connection, she referred to withdrawal of import duty and reduction in tariff rates. However, she declared, the government will not succumb to any pressure or blackmail. She said the government has taken measures aimed at reducing dependence on bank loans. She said for the 1993-94 budget, 60 billion rupees were borrowed from the State Bank. In the new budget, bank borrowing has been curtailed to 15 billion rupees only. This will reduce the budget deficit and enhance industrialization. The prime minister said the business community is not opposed to the budgetary measures, rather they are averse to the government's decision to file wealth tax returns along with income tax returns. She said in the United Kingdom, India, and other countries, if someone is found concealing his income he has to pay 10 times the evaded amount. If the business community comes to the

negotiations, then we can start with penalties four times of the amount evaded and would gradually increase it to 10 times. But, if they carry on with their strike call, then we will enforce penalties 10 times the amount at once. The prime minister said the government wants everybody to pay tax according to capacity because the prevalent system taxes the poor but does not bring the rich into the tax net. She said the government has initiated a moral crusade against tax evasion. She said:

[Begin Bhutto recording] I do not believe the community's strike is to going to be effective. I believe that they are going to strike and it will peter out. And I believe that the reforms that we have introduced are necessary for transforming Pakistan into a modern nation state. We cannot be a nation of borrowers. We cannot be a nation which lives beyond our means. We cannot be a nation that goes on increasing our deficit and paying our government salaries through borrowing. (?It has) to stop. And what we have to do is generate employment and reduce inflation for which we have taken steps. [end recording]

The minister of state for finance, Makhdum Shahabuddin, has said the claim of the Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry [FPCCI] that the government will suffer a loss of 18 billion rupees per day if the federation's demands are not met resulting in a two-day strike is false, exaggerated, and alarmist. In a statement issued in Islamabad today, Makhdum Shahabuddin said it is clear that the strike, the success of which is questionable, will not affect agriculture, the principal productive sector of the economy, or energy or mining. He said even if it is assumed that the entire manufacturing and trade sector shuts down, which is virtually impossible, the loss to the economy would not amount to around 1.5 billion rupees per day. These irresponsible estimates of the FPCCI are meant to alarm the public, cause panic, and pressurize the government into taking action which may not be in the best interest of the country. Makhdum Shahabuddin said the federation is not serving the true interests of its constituents or the country by resorting to confrontation, alarmist predictions, campaign to break the law, and obstructing constructive dialogue on the budget between the government and trade and industry.

Commerce Minister Comments

BK2606115594 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 26 Jun 94

[Text] A strike is being observed today in some parts of country at the call of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry [FPCCI] against nonacceptance of their budget proposals by the government. In Karachi, industrial units and main shopping centers are closed. However, public transport and private vehicles are plying as usual. Most of the main shopping centers and markets in Islamabad, Rawalpindi, and Peshawar are closed.

However, the minister for commerce speaking in the National Assembly said a number of factories in Sialkot, Naushahra, Gujrat, and Sindh are not observing the strike. The minister for commerce, Chaudhary Ahmad Mukhtar, has again asked the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry to call off the strike and resume talks with the government about their demands. Replying to a point of order by Haji Mohammad Nawaz Khokar in the National Assembly today, the commerce minister said that the government during talks with representatives of FPCCI wanted to evolve some package. However, they continued their threatening posture saying that if their demands were not accepted, they would go on strike. He said they wanted taxation rules and laws of their choice and were trying to dictate to the government. He said there were some politically motivated people who raised slogans and misbehaved during the talks.

Traders Observe 'Partial Strike'

BK2606154394 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 26 Jun 94

[Text] Partial strike was observed throughout the country today on the call of the Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry against the budgetary proposals. Most of the business concern belonging to big businessmen and industrialists remained closed. However, small markets and shopping centers generally remained open. Petroleum dealers and transporters did not pay heed to the strike call. Fruit and vegetable markets, restaurants, utility stores, mohallah [petty] shops, and general stores and vendors also continued their normal business activities. Some traders continued their business with their shutters half closed. The stock exchanges of the country also remained open as usual, but trading was poor. The industrial sector responded to the strike call as most of the units suspended their activities. Most of the small traders condemned the strike and said the big businessmen always fleece masses with a big profit margin. They should make some sacrifice for the nation and avoid creating problems for the people. They were of the view that the strike call is politically motivated as these elements wanted to create hurdles for the government which is making efforts to streamline the country's economy in order to provide relief to the common man. [words indistinct] some traders told our representative that they are not in favor of the strike, but kept their premises closed for fear of Chamber's desperadoes. They said the strike is not in the national interest.

Strike Enters Second Day

BK2706155694 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 27 Jun 94

[Text] Partial strike by the business community continued throughout the country for the second day today. The call for the strike was given by the Pakistan Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry to protest against certain taxation proposals in the federal budget. Our correspondents from major cities and towns say that as compared to yesterday, most of small traders today carried out their

business. The impact of strike was however witnessed in major shopping centers, big business establishments, commercial houses, and industrial estates. Our representatives say most of small traders opened their premises in the morning, but under pressure from chamber's representatives they pulled down their shutters later in the day. Like yesterday, transporters and petroleum dealers remained averse to the strike call and carried on their normal activities. Fruit and vegetable markets remained open and normal rush of buyers was visible. The life was normal as strike did not affect the common man who was least concerned by the shutdown in the major markets and shopping centers.